

# JELLY FACTS

## 1. When is World Jellyfish day Celebrated?

Every year November 3<sup>rd</sup> is celebrated as world jellyfish day.

## 2. Are Jellyfish Fish?

No! Jellyfish are not actually fish; they cannot be considered fish because they are invertebrates in the Phylum Cnidaria.

## 3. How long jellyfish have been living on the earth?

Jellyfish existed long before us and even the dinosaurs. They have been in the oceans for around 650 million years.

## 4. Where are jellyfishes found?

Jellyfishes are found both in Marine and Freshwater bodies, however, the freshwater jellyfishes are relatively smaller and not considered dangerous.

## 5. What is jellyfish made up of?

They are made up of more than 90% water.

## 6. Do jellyfishes have brain?

Jellyfish do not have hearts, blood, bones or even brains, instead, jellyfish have nerve nets which sense changes in the environment and coordinate the animal's responses.

## 7. Do jellyfishes have eye? Can they see underwater?

Box jellyfishes have eyes in fact they have set of 24 eyes which can detect objects that get in their way.

## 8. What do jellyfishes eat?

Jellyfishes eat a wide variety of animals such as plankton, which are tiny, floating sea animals, and brine shrimps. Larger jellies eat fish eggs, or even sea snails and crabs. The largest jellyfish will eat small fish and they can even be cannibalistic.

## 9. How to call a group of jellyfish?

A group of jellyfish is called a bloom, swarm or smack.

## 10. How long most jellyfish can live?

Most of the species of jellyfish can live up to 1-2 years and some are known to live for up to 20 years.

## 11. Are Jellyfish Venomous to humans?

All jellyfish produce toxins with varying levels of "stings." Only about 2% of jellyfish toxins are seriously harmful to humans.

## 12. What is the deadliest jellyfish in the world?

One of the deadliest jellyfish in the world is the Box Jellyfish (*Chironex fleckeri*). They are found primarily off the coast of northern Australia and in the Indo-Pacific, the Box Jellyfish have 24 eyes and 15 tentacles that can reach up to three meters (10 feet) in length.

## 13. Can dead jellyfish sting?

A jellyfish can sting even if it is dead and washed up on the shore. The nematocyst found in the tentacles can fire up venom if you touch it. Never touch any jellyfish with bare hand.

## 14. How to treat a jellyfish sting?

Most of the jellyfish stings are not lethal. Dousing the stung area with vinegar inactivate the sting and minimize the pain. Never pour freshwater or rub the affected area. Sting by box jellyfishes require medical attention

## 15. Are all jellyfish immortal?

The life span of jellyfish varies among species, with some only living a few days, others to a year. There is one species of jellyfish, the *Turritopsis dohrnii*, that has been called 'immortal.' When this jellyfish is old, sick, or facing danger, its survival mechanism allows it to become a younger version of itself.

## 16. What good do jellyfish do?

Jellyfish are crucial to ocean health. They keep prey like zooplankton and small fish populations in check by paralyzing them with their tentacles and gobbling them up. Jellyfish also transport carbon to greater ocean depths, enhancing biodiversity. Many marine organisms including Trigger fish, Sun fish, and Sea turtle prefer jellyfish to eat.

## 17. Can jellyfish feel pain?

Jellyfish don't feel pain in the same way that humans would. They do not possess a brain, heart, bones, nor a respiratory system. They are 95% water and contain only a basic network of neurons that allow them to sense their environment.

### 18. Can jellyfish glow in the dark?

Yes they can. Some jellyfish have bioluminescence organs which enable them to emit light. This is believed to be primarily used as a defense mechanism to distract predators, but can be used to attract prey or for intraspecific communication.

### 19. How do jellyfishes reproduce?

Jellyfishes reproduce both sexual and asexual mode.

### 20. Are jellyfishes Plankton?

Jellyfish are zooplankton (from the Greek word planktos, meaning to wander or drift) and are not strong swimmers, so they are at the mercy of the ocean currents.

### 21. How many species of jellyfishes found in Indian coastal water?

In India 212 species of Hydrozoa, 37 species of Scyphozoa, 5 species of Cubozoa have been reported. Along Tamil Nadu coast, 14 scyphozoan and 2 cubozoan species are reported.

### 22. Are jellyfishes edible?

Yes. About 38 species of jellyfishes are reportedly been consumed by humans around the world. China is the first country to process the jellyfish for human consumption. In India four species are processed and exported to Southeast Asian countries.

### 23. Has any jellyfish flown into space?

NASA first started sending jellyfish to space aboard the Columbia space shuttle back in the early 1990s to test how they might get along in a zero-gravity environment. Interestingly, both humans and jellyfish rely on specialized gravity-sensitive calcium crystals to orient themselves. So studying how jellyfish manage in space can reveal clues about how humans might also fare.

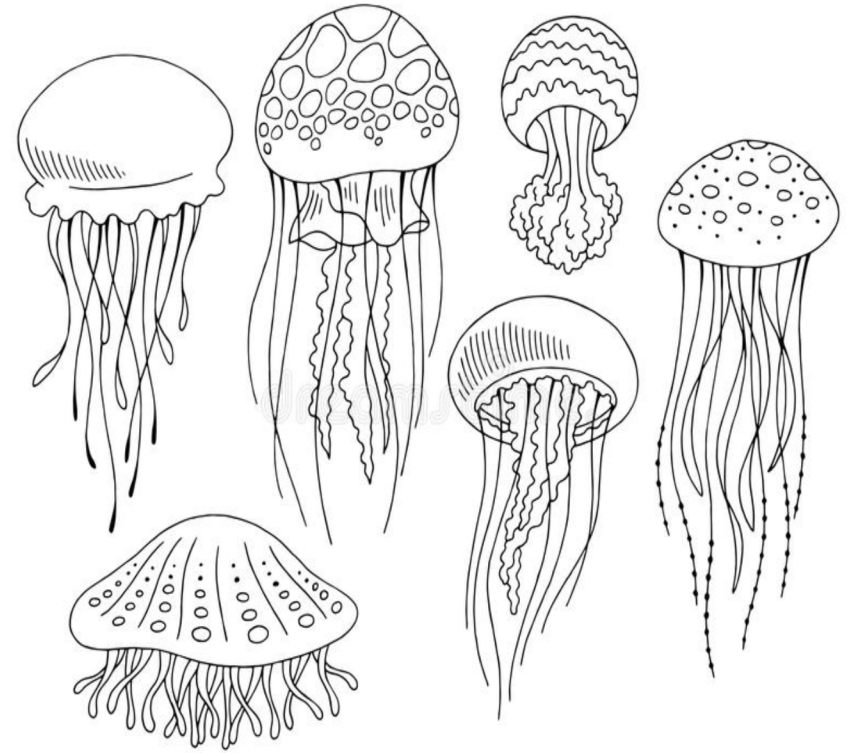
Compiled by Dr.R.Saravanan, Scientist, Marine Biodiversity Division

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Mandapam Regional Centre of CMFRI, Mandapam Camp – 623 520

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**Central Marine Fisheries  
Research Institute**



*Mandapam Regional Centre, Mandapam Camp -623520*

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