Lesson Plan – Motion from the Ocean
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Summary
As part of our Oceanography unit, students will be choosing four jellyfish to research and create a hanging mobile representing the four species. While investigating life cycle, habitats, food sources, predators, environmental conditions (i.e. pollution, ocean acidity, temperature, etc...), and participate in Jellywatch.org. Skills to be developed: citizen science, observation, identification, research, data entry, developing and creating models, obtaining, evaluating, and communicating information.

[TAGS: jellyfish, marine science, oceanography, citizen science]

Key Concepts
- Environmental stewardship; ESS3C: Human Impacts on Earth’s Systems
- Ecosystem; LS2C: Ecosystem Dynamics, Functioning and Resilience

Objectives
- Students will be able to identify species of jellyfish
- Record data from live observations of local jellyfish; report to Jellywatch.org
- Demonstrate understanding of jellyfish life cycle, habitat, anatomy, and how environmental impacts affect jellyfish
- Create life like models to hang from a mobile
- Present research to fellow students

Materials
- [www.jellywatch.org](http://www.jellywatch.org)
  - Jellyfish worksheet
  - Crayons, colored markers, or colored pencils
  - Thin cardboard or poster board
  - Plastic lid or round piece of cardboard, at least 4 inches in diameter
  - Yarn, string, ribbon, or fishing line, at least 10 feet
  - Scissors

Procedure
- Research and choose 4 jellyfish to include in mobile
- Complete “Jellyfish Worksheet” for each jellyfish selected
- Create 3D representation of each of the 4 jellyfish


- Create a hanging mobile (students will have creative leeway in the design of their mobile)
- Students will present mobile to their class and choose any two to discuss with their peers

**Assessment**

- Performance – Presentation of project will reflect understanding of key concepts concerning the organisms life cycle, habitat, food source, interesting features, and potential environmental impacts upon species
- Product – The mobile must accurately reflect the selected jellyfish in physical appearance
- Effort – Does the project demonstrate effort and understanding of their subject

**Resources**

www.ocean.si.edu/jellyfish-and-comb-jellies
www.mbari.org
Jellyfish Worksheet

Describe the basic structure/anatomy of the jellyfish

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Habitat and place in the food chain

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Reproduction and lifecycle

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Human and environmental impacts

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Additional interesting facts

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