

Student Worksheet: Introduction to Jellyfish – Drifters of the Sea

Name: _____

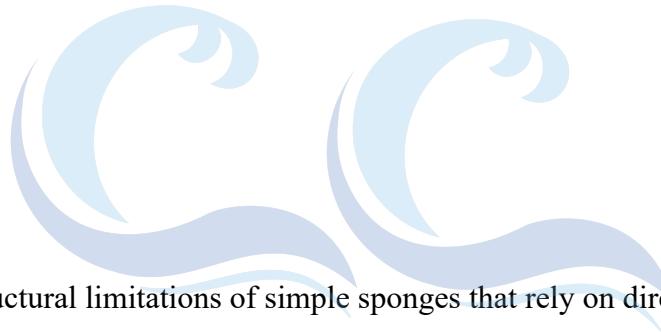
Date: _____

Class: _____

Aim:

What are jellyfish, and how do their anatomy, life cycle, and ecological roles contribute to the function and diversity of marine ecosystems?

Do Now:



What might be the structural limitations of simple sponges that rely on direct flow into a central cavity? How could nature improve this? Think about how folding and complexity increase surface area in biology.

Classification and Anatomy

1. To what phylum do jellyfish belong? What characteristics define this group?

2. What class do true jellyfish belong to? Give two examples.



3. Name two other jellyfish-like classes and describe how they differ from true jellyfish:

1:

2:

4. Describe the symmetry and body structure of a jellyfish:

5. Match the anatomical structure with its function:

Mesoglea:



Gastrovascular Cavity:

Cnidoblasts:

Statocysts:

Nerve Net:

Movement and Life Cycle

6. How do jellyfish move through the water?

7. List the stages of the jellyfish life cycle in order:



8. Which stages of the jellyfish life cycle are sexual? Which are asexual?

9. What is strobilation, and what does it produce?

Feeding, Predators, and Defense

10. What do jellyfish eat, and how do they catch their prey?



11. Name three animals that prey on jellyfish:

1:

2:

3:

12. Describe two jellyfish defense mechanisms:

1:

2:

Ecological Roles and Human Impact

13. List three ecological roles jellyfish play in the ocean:

1:



2:

3:

14. How can jellyfish act as environmental indicators?

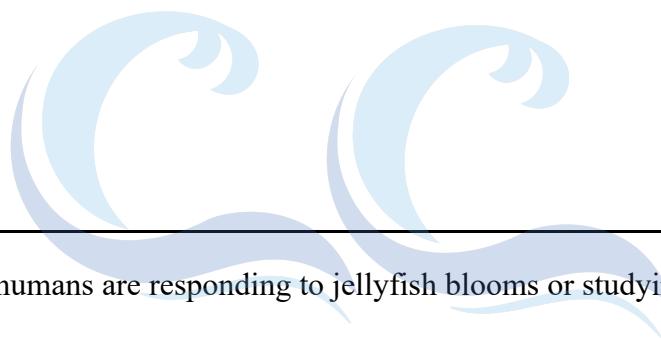
15. What causes jellyfish blooms?

16. Name three problems caused by jellyfish blooms.

1:

2:

3:



17. List two ways humans are responding to jellyfish blooms or studying jellyfish:

Exit Ticket:

In 2–3 sentences, explain why jellyfish are considered important to marine ecosystems and what their population changes can tell us about ocean health.

