

Beware the Box! A Creative Dive into Box Jellyfish

Materials Needed:

- Computer or tablet with internet access (for research and videos)
- Paper (drawing paper, lined paper, construction paper – various colors if possible)
- Drawing and coloring supplies (crayons, markers, colored pencils, pens)
- Optional craft supplies for model building: clear plastic cup or bottle, cellophane, string, pipe cleaners, googly eyes, glue, scissors
- Notebook or journal for notes and writing

Lesson Activities:

Part 1: The Mysterious Drifter (Introduction & Engagement - 15-20 minutes)

Let's start with a puzzle! What animal is almost see-through, lives in warm ocean waters, has up to 24 eyes (but no brain in the way we think of it!), and carries a powerful, dangerous secret in its long tentacles? (Pause for guessing). That's right, it's the Box Jellyfish!

Today, we're not just going to learn facts about them; we're going to get creative and explore their amazing and sometimes scary world. First, let's imagine watching a short, fascinating (and safe!) video about box jellyfish. (Parent/Guardian: Please find a suitable, age-appropriate introductory video on box jellyfish – e.g., from National Geographic Kids, SciShow Kids, or similar educational channels. Focus on visuals and basic facts.)

After imagining the video or watching one, discuss: What was the most surprising thing you learned or saw?

Part 2: Box Jellyfish Investigation (Research & Discovery - 20-30 minutes)

Now it's time to become a marine biologist! Using kid-friendly websites (like National Geographic Kids, Kiddle, or Britannica Kids – search for "box jellyfish"), let's find out more about these creatures. Try to find answers to these questions and jot down some notes in your journal:

- **What do they look like?** (Shape, color, tentacles, size)
- **Where do they live?** (What oceans? Near the shore or deep sea?)
- **What do they eat?** (And how do they catch their food?)
- **What makes them so dangerous?** (A little about their venom/nematocysts)
- **Do they have any special features?** (Like their many eyes!)

Focus on understanding *why* these features are important for the box jellyfish to survive. For example, why might having many eyes be useful?

Part 3: Creative Ocean Lab (Application & Creation - 45-60 minutes)

This is where your creativity shines! Choose **one or two** of the following activities to complete:

1. **"My Own Box Jelly" Diorama/Model:** Using craft supplies (like a clear plastic cup for the bell, cellophane or string for tentacles, pipe cleaners for structure), create your own model of a box

jellyfish! You can even create a mini-diorama showing its habitat. Be ready to explain the different parts of your jellyfish.

2. **"Box Jellyfish Safety Guide" Poster or Comic Strip:** Imagine you need to warn people at the beach about box jellyfish. Design a colorful and informative poster or create a short comic strip. It should show what a box jellyfish might look like in the water, explain why it's important to be careful, and give one simple safety tip (e.g., "Shuffle your feet when walking in shallow water" or "Wear protective swimwear").
3. **"A Day in the Life of a Box Jellyfish" Short Story/Poem:** Write a short story or a poem from the perspective of a box jellyfish. What does it see with its many eyes? How does it move? What does it "think" about (if it could think)? How does it hunt? Make it adventurous!
4. **"Super Senses" Scientific Drawing:** Create a detailed drawing of a box jellyfish. Label its key parts, especially its groups of eyes (rhopalia) and its tentacles with stinging cells (nematocysts). Write a short paragraph explaining how one of these features (like its vision or its stinging ability) helps it survive in the ocean.

Part 4: Show and Tell (Sharing & Reflection - 10-15 minutes)

Share your amazing creation(s)!

- Explain what you made and why you chose that activity.
- What was the most interesting new thing you learned about box jellyfish while doing your project?
- What part of your project are you most proud of?
- If box jellyfish could give humans one piece of advice, what do you think it would be?

Extension Ideas (Optional):

- Research other types of jellyfish and compare them to the box jellyfish. How are they similar? How are they different?
- Learn about the marine food web and where the box jellyfish fits in.
- With a grown-up, research what to do (and what not to do) if someone is stung by a jellyfish. (Focus on safety and scientific information).

Great job exploring the incredible world of box jellyfish today!