Build a (Glowing) Jellyfish

Discover bioluminescent jellyfish and make one for your home!

Materials:

Scissors, glue, tape, markers or paint, craft materials (yarn, tissue paper, paper plates, streamers, ribbon, balloons, string, recycled plastic bags, etc.) You can use whatever supplies you have!
Optional: Glow-in-the-dark paint or glow sticks.

Caution: Materials such as streamers and plastic bags can be choking hazards. Always supervise young children!

[redacted]

Jellyfish Gallery

JellyfλăK fλØŜ l·ff ƨØŜℕJ ΰſKŜ ø2ℕtŘΩă 2ŎŜl·yãΣ ₹ℕJ2Y ΰſKŜ ădzℕ₹l·ŎŜ ΰ2 ΰſKŜ ŘŜŜLJ ăŜl·φ
Over 2000 different species are known, but many more remain to be discovered. Explore their shapes and colors!

Discover more about jellyfish (courtesy of National Geographic):
www.youtube.com/watch?v=uHB9JJ5dKe8

Image Credits: All public domain images from Wikimedia Commons, Pixabay.com, Pxhere.com, and Pickpik.com.

[redacted]

Light in the Deep Ocean

Jellyfish glow in the dark, in many different colors such as green, blue, and purple. They make their own light through bioluminescence. This process is common for animals living in the deep ocean, as it is too deep for sunlight to reach. Bioluminescence is much rarer on land, although there are a few examples such as fireflies, glow-worms, and fungi.

Bioluminescence comes from a chemical reaction in the animal's body, similar to the reaction in a glowstick. Some animals, like jellyfish, get the glowing substance they need for from the food they eat. Other animals, such as shrimp, make their own glow-in-the-dark substance.

Left: Glowing marine creatures. Image: Edith Widder, teamorca.org

Glowing has many advantages in dark environments. Some animals use it to communicate, while glow for defense, camouflage, or to find a mate. Other animals use bioluminescence to find food. The anglerfish has a glowing lure on its head to attract prey!

Right: Anglerfish. Image: Bruce Robison, via National Geographic.

[redacted]