

Plastic Jellyfish Experiment



GREEN-SCHOOLS
STAY HOME - WATER

Lots of sea creatures eat jellyfish. In fact, the Leatherback Sea Turtle eats only jellyfish! When plastic bags and wrapping ends up in the seas and oceans these endangered turtles think they are jellyfish and eat them. This can make them very sick and sometimes they can die.

You might wonder why they can't tell the difference between a plastic bag and a jellyfish. This experiment helps to understand how this can happen.



Set up time: 5 minutes **Wait time:** None

What do you need?

1. A large clear jar or bottle
2. A bit of old white plastic bag or white/clear plastic wrapping
3. An elastic band.
4. A small lid or bottle top (optional)



What do you do?

1. Take the elastic band and tie it around the centre of the plastic bag or wrapping. You can put the lid or bottle top in the centre beforehand if you are using one.
2. Fill the jar or bottle most of the way with water.
3. Put the tied plastic bag in the jar in such a way that the tied bit is at the top and the ends are dropping down into the water.
4. Look at it from a distance and below. Then imagine it moving around in the sea.



Questions

1. Try and think of 3 ways that people could help to stop the turtles getting ill from eating plastic bags and wrapping.
2. Can you think of times when somethings you buy have had plastic wrapping or bags on it when they didn't need to have them?
3. Who could you write to that could help stop this from happening?