

Teacher's Notes



Jiggliest Jellyfish

Written by Emma Flannery & Tim Flannery

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LEARNING OUTCOMES

RECOMMENDED FOR

Primary-aged readers (ages 4–8, grades 1–2)

KEY CURRICULUM AREAS

- Learning areas: English, Science
- General capabilities:
 - AC9S1U01
 - AC9S1I06
 - AC9S2I06
 - AC9E1LA03
 - AC9E1LA09
 - AC9E2LA09

THEMES

- Jellyfish
- Ocean life
- Environment
- Climate change
- Conservation

SYNOPSIS

Perhaps you've come across a jellyfish at the beach and wondered about its strange, jiggly body. Perhaps you've wondered how they move, eat or survive.

In *Jiggliest Jellyfish*, superstar father-daughter duo, Tim and Emma Flannery, dive deep into the underwater world of the jellyfish. Using their trademark combination of expert facts and anecdotes, the authors share their knowledge about these curious creatures. Discover where jellyfish live, how they reproduce, and what makes them so special. Presented in short, accessible snippets, *Jiggliest Jellyfish* can be read by those who are new to jellyfish as well as those who have an interest in these creatures and want to build on their existing knowledge.

This book (and its series) is also a clear, engaging introduction to the world of non-fiction and nature writing. It's especially great for students who are starting to consider how they'll share their knowledge and ideas.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR/ ILLUSTRATOR

Professor Tim Flannery is one of the world's leading scientists, explorers and conservationists. He has held positions in renowned institutions across Australia and internationally, including Director of the South Australian Museum, Visiting Chair in Australian Studies at Harvard University and Distinguished Research Fellow at the Australian Museum. He was named Australian of the Year in 2007. He has published more than thirty books, including the award-winning *Here on Earth*, *The Weather Makers*, *Atmosphere of Hope* and the best-selling *Explore Your World* series, many of which he co-wrote with his daughter Emma. He is a frequent presenter on ABC Radio, NPR and the BBC, and has also written and presented several series on the Documentary Channel.

Emma Flannery is a science communicator whose curiosity for the natural world has seen her travel and work in some of its most wild and interesting places. She has explored caves, forests and oceans across most of the globe's continents in search of the elusive fossils, animals and plants that help us understand our planet and who we are in it. With postgraduate experience in geology, chemistry and palaeontology, Emma's research and writing has been published in scientific journals, children's books and a number of museum-based adult education tours. She has worked for and with universities, government agencies and museums. She is the co-founder of Museophilliac, an independent curatorial service that has produced programs for the City of Sydney and the Australian Museum, with the aim of bringing science to life for a range of audiences. Her passion for science has an infectious and playful enthusiasm that inspires curiosity in children and adults alike. She has co-written many of the best-selling *Explore Your World* series with her dad, Tim.

Katie Melrose was born and raised along the Southern Californian coast where her love for art and reading was cultivated at a young age by her parents. After graduating with a BFA in illustration from California State University of Fullerton, she quickly delved into illustrating books. Katie is extremely bookish, getting through more than 100 books a year (shout out to audio books!). You'll mostly find her with a brush, but when she's without, she'll be in the kitchen, cooking up a storm and pretending she's a chef – food is perhaps her second greatest passion in life after illustration.

THEMES

The Natural World:

Jiggliest Jellyfish is written by the authors of the *Explore Your World* series, which introduces readers to the different animals we share the planet with. Why do you think it's so important to learn about the natural world? Climate change is only mentioned at the very end of the book, but this final section is significant in the way that it encourages readers to consider their impact on ocean life and other ecosystems. Consider the impact that books like this have on your relationship with the environment. What is one thing you could do to keep your local waterways clean?

WRITING STYLE

Nature writing is a way of communicating facts and information about the natural world to a broad audience. This means using plain English to convey information in a way that is factually correct and interesting to a reader.



Some of the basic principles of plain English include:

- Short sentences.
- Using real-world examples to illustrate a point.
- Using lists or subheadings to break up chunks of text.

Where can you find examples of each of these techniques in the book? Do they help make the information accessible?

Even in plain English, scientific or technical terms are sometimes necessary. But writers make sure that they use these terms sparingly, and accompany them with clear, simple explanations. Write your own definition for the following scientific names or terms used in the book:

- ocelli
- planulae
- nematocysts

COMPREHENSION

- How many kinds of jellyfish are there?
- What are some of the ways that jellyfish can move from one spot to another?
- How have jellyfish helped scientific discoveries?
- How much water does a jellyfish's body contain?
- What are some of the ways that jellyfish survive predators? What are some of the things that hunt jellyfish?
- What does a jellyfish have instead of a brain?
- Why is symmetry so important for jellyfish? What does 'radial symmetry' mean?
- What might a jellyfish eat in a typical day? How do they find their food?
- Is it ok to touch a jellyfish? Why or why not?
- What does 'bioluminescence' mean? Which jellyfish are bioluminescent?
- What is the size difference between the smallest jellyfish and the largest?
- How do jellyfish 'see' where they're going?
- What is a 'symbiotic relationship'? What is an example of symbiotic relationship that includes jellyfish?
- What are some of the things that look like jellyfish but aren't jellyfish?
- What is a jellyfish bloom and what causes one? What impact do they have on the ecosystem?

WRITING EXERCISE

Use the principles of plain English to write a short piece of nature writing about a creature you'll find in your favourite place.



CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

- Which jellyfish is your favourite? Why? Draw a picture of it in its natural habitat.
- What is the baby form of a jellyfish? How is this different from the adult form? Draw a series of pictures that illustrates the life cycle of a jellyfish.
- Jellyfish have some pretty incredible abilities – they can regenerate, they are translucent, and some can even live forever! We can't forget their colourful bodies too. When you think about it, jellyfish have a lot in common with some superheroes. Using one of the jellyfish from the book as inspiration, create your own superhero – give it a name, a superpower and a cool outfit.
- Consider the last instruction in the book: 'Now that you know more about jellyfish, don't forget to share what you've learned with everyone you know!' What are the five most significant things you've learned about jellyfish by reading this book? Come up with a creative way to share these facts with other people – it might be a poster, a zine, or even a short film or song!

RELATED READING

Sensational Sharks

By Tim Flannery & Emma Flannery

Somebody Swallowed Stanley

By Sarah Roberts

Jelly-boy

By Nicole Godwin

Obsessive About Octopuses

By Owen Davey

