

Name _____

Jellyfish Predators and Threats



Jellyfish may seem delicate, but they face many threats in the wild. Some of their main predators include sea turtles, certain species of fish, and seabirds. Sea turtles, especially leatherback turtles, rely heavily on jellyfish as a food source. Some larger fish, like sunfish, also feed on jellyfish.

In addition to natural predators, jellyfish face dangers from environmental changes. Ocean pollution, climate change, and habitat destruction can all impact jellyfish populations. Pollution can harm jellyfish by damaging their fragile bodies. Rising ocean temperatures and changes in water conditions can affect where jellyfish can survive and find food.

Humans also pose a threat to jellyfish. Fishing practices sometimes capture jellyfish accidentally in nets. Coastal development can disrupt their habitats, making it harder for jellyfish to thrive.

Jellyfish can also be affected by diseases and parasites. Some parasites attach to their tentacles, weakening them. However, jellyfish have some natural defenses. Their stinging tentacles can deter many predators, and their ability to reproduce in large numbers helps ensure their survival despite these threats.