

Moon Jelly Life Cycle

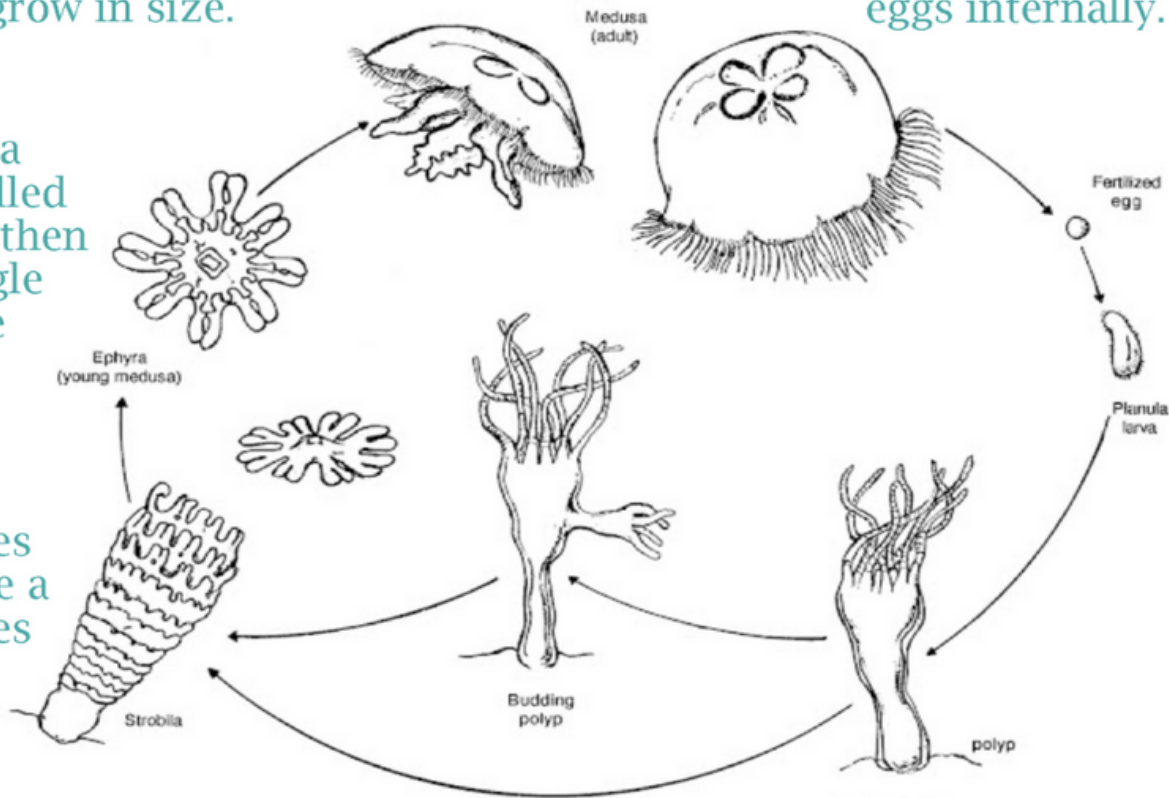


These tiny young medusae develop over a few weeks into tiny adult medusae - the “typical” jellyfish we’re used to seeing. As they eat plankton, they grow in size.

After male medusae release sperm into the water, the female medusae capture the sperm and fertilize their eggs internally.

Each “pancake” is a young medusa (called an ephyra), which then floats away. A single polyp can produce

The polyp divides horizontally, like a stack of pancakes (strobilataion).



The female jellies hold their fertilized eggs under their bells until they are released as planula

The planula larvae drift through the water searching for a hard surface to begin their next life stages. This hard surface can be floating debris, reefs, docks or

Once the larva attaches to a surface, it becomes a polyp - like a tiny sea anemone. Its arms wave in the water as it seeks plankton

