What you need:

A paper grocery bag
A piece of watercolor paper (at least 8”x10”)
you can also use card stock or any other kind of thick paper.
A circle plastic lid for tracing (at least 7” in diameter)
you can also use the lid to a cooking pot
Paper towels
Waxed paper
Pencil
White glue like Elmer’s
A couple of container lids to mix glue
Scissors
Tempera paint
(blue and your favorite colors)
Stapler
Colored pencils, markers, or crayons

1. Put your paper towel on top of your waxed paper.
2. Grab an old container lid for mixing glue and water. Stir together about 2 Tbsp of glue with 1 Tbsp water.
3. Gently paint the watered-down glue onto the surface of the paper towel. The watery glue will soak into the paper towel and it will become translucent, like a jellyfish! Set aside to dry.
4. Get your round plastic lid and your thick piece of paper and trace a circle on it.
5. Cut the circle out.
6. The cut-out circle will become your sea turtle shell. You can look up a picture of a sea turtle and draw the pattern you see in the picture, or you can go with your imagination, like I have here.

7. Flip the colored circle over. Put a dot in the center of the circle and draw a line from the center dot to the edge of the paper.

8. Cut along this line.

9. Flip the colored circle back over. Overlap one of the cut edges on top of the opposite side to pop-up your sea turtle shell.

10. Staple the two sides together. Now you have a “relief” sea turtle shell. Your turtle shell has gone from 2 dimensional to 3 dimensional. Do you know why turtles have shells? The shell protects it from predators.

11. The inside of the paper bag is our sea turtle and sea jelly collage surface. We are going to paint it like the ocean. Cut the bag open and lay it flat in your work area.

Leatherbacks are carnivorous and eat twice their weight each day. They primarily prey on sea jellies, since their jaws are too fragile to eat hard-bodied animals.
12. I like to pour the paint right onto the paper, then paint it. You can choose whatever color you would like to use for your ocean.

13. I choose to paint my ocean blue with a little tiny bit of black. Deep water usually looks dark. Sea turtles swim in the deep ocean. I want my ocean to look like the water is deep for the sea turtle.

14. Pour out a little white glue into a container. If you have tacky glue, use it. Otherwise Elmer’s is fine.

15. Roll the whole outer rim of the concave side of the turtle shell in the glue.

16. Decide where you want the sea turtle to be in your ocean scene and glue it down. If part of the rim pops up that is okay. It will stay in place as long as at least half of the gluey rim is in contact with the ocean scene paper. Be careful not to move your sea turtle collage now until it dries, which will take a whole day.

17. With a small brush and a different color of tempera paint, paint four legs, a head and tail.
18. Find your paper towel glued to your waxed paper. Gently tease the paper towel off the waxed paper. If it rips a little that is okay. We are going to make sea jellies out of this translucent paper towel. You have enough to make up to four jellies.

19. Cut the paper towel in half and half again to make four pieces.

20. Start with one piece and use the same “pop-up” technique that you used with your turtle shell. You don’t have to cut them into circles first. Cut a line into the middle of the paper towel, overlap the two cut sides and staple them together.

21. Trim the bottom edge to make it roughly round.

22. Cut along the outer rim of the sea jelly to create tendrils.

23. Dip the tendrils in the glue and press onto your collage to glue into place.

Sometimes a sea turtle will see a plastic bag floating in the ocean and eat it, thinking it’s a sea jelly. This hurts the sea turtle. So it’s very important for us to keep plastic bags out of the ocean. Think of all the things you can do to keep plastic out of the ocean. You might just save a sea turtle’s life.