

# CARDBOARD TURTLE PUPPET



In this project, we'll use cardboard and paint to create a big turtle puppet. One side will be painted with magical colors we mix ourselves. The other side will be a study in contrast using only black and white. Then we will take our turtles out into the world and play! Through photography, we will capture ourselves in our most turtle-y moments using an instant camera.



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## TIPS

Make sure the turtles dry between coats of paint.

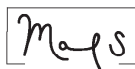
Stay true to your students' turtle forms when you cut them out. Even if they are not in the "correct" turtle shape, cut out exactly where your students drew. If some turtles are triangular, that's ok! If some turtles are wiggly, that's ok! The more diverse the turtles, the more interesting they will be.

If you have too many students to cut out their turtles individually, don't bother cutting them out. Instead, have your students paint a solid color background around their turtle. The turtles can still be activated in a space and photographed.

Encourage kids to really play with their turtles before photographing. If you can, spend at least an entire classtime activating your turtles!

## MATERIALS

Big cardboard  
Marker  
Tempera Paint  
Box cutter (for teachers)  
Instant Camera



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## QUESTION

Turtles are known for retracting into their shells as a defense. Can humans do this, too?

## RESOURCES

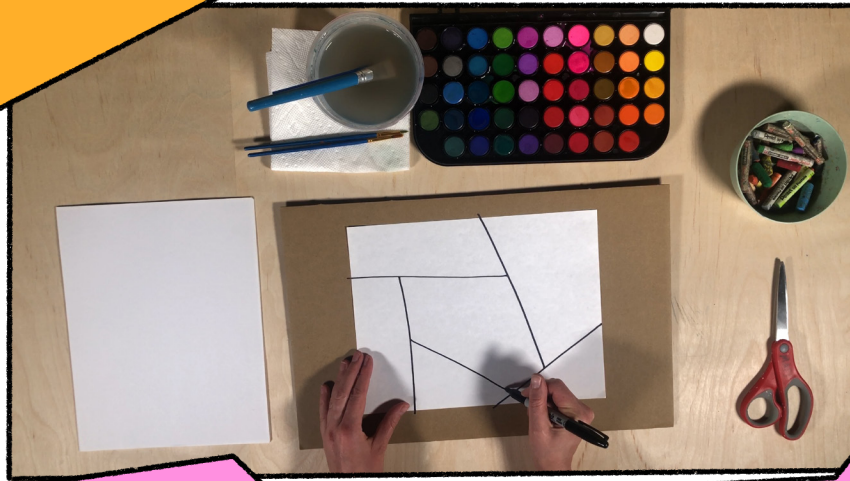
Research “Turtles all the way down” and the Turtle Island origin story, a myth that was developed independently by several different cultures. The Smithsonian American Art Museum and the Metropolitan Museum of Art have some beautiful examples of turtles in art available on their websites.



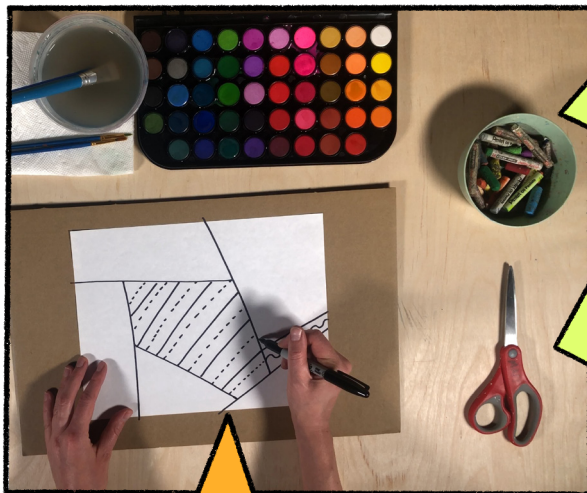
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# WARM UP



Start by drawing lines on a piece of paper to create interesting sections.



Then, fill those shapes with patterns made from different types of lines, such as: dotted line-straight line-dotted line-straight line. Use as many pieces of paper as you feel like.

Once you make your patterns, continue the patterns in color with oil pastels and watercolors.

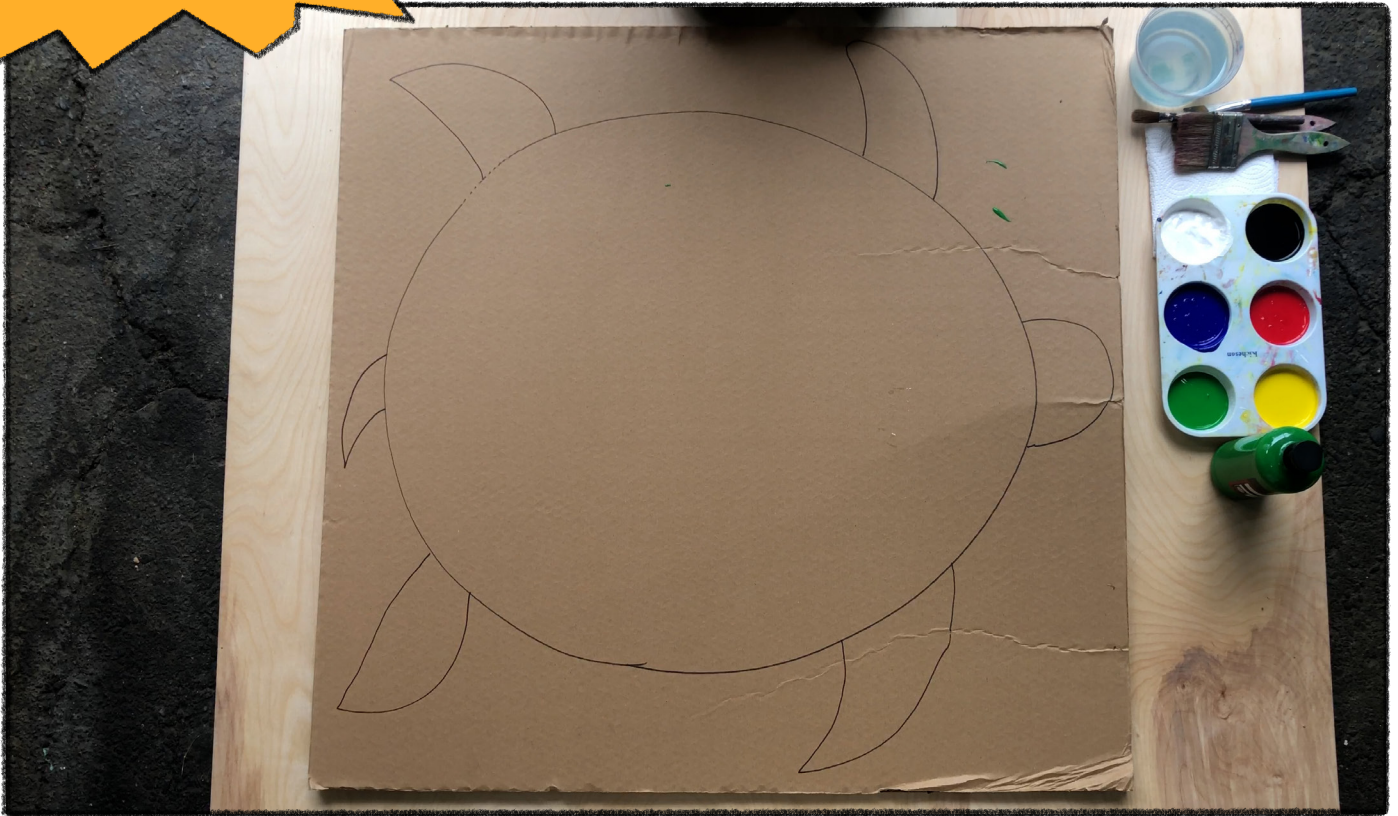


*MAPS*

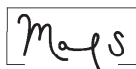
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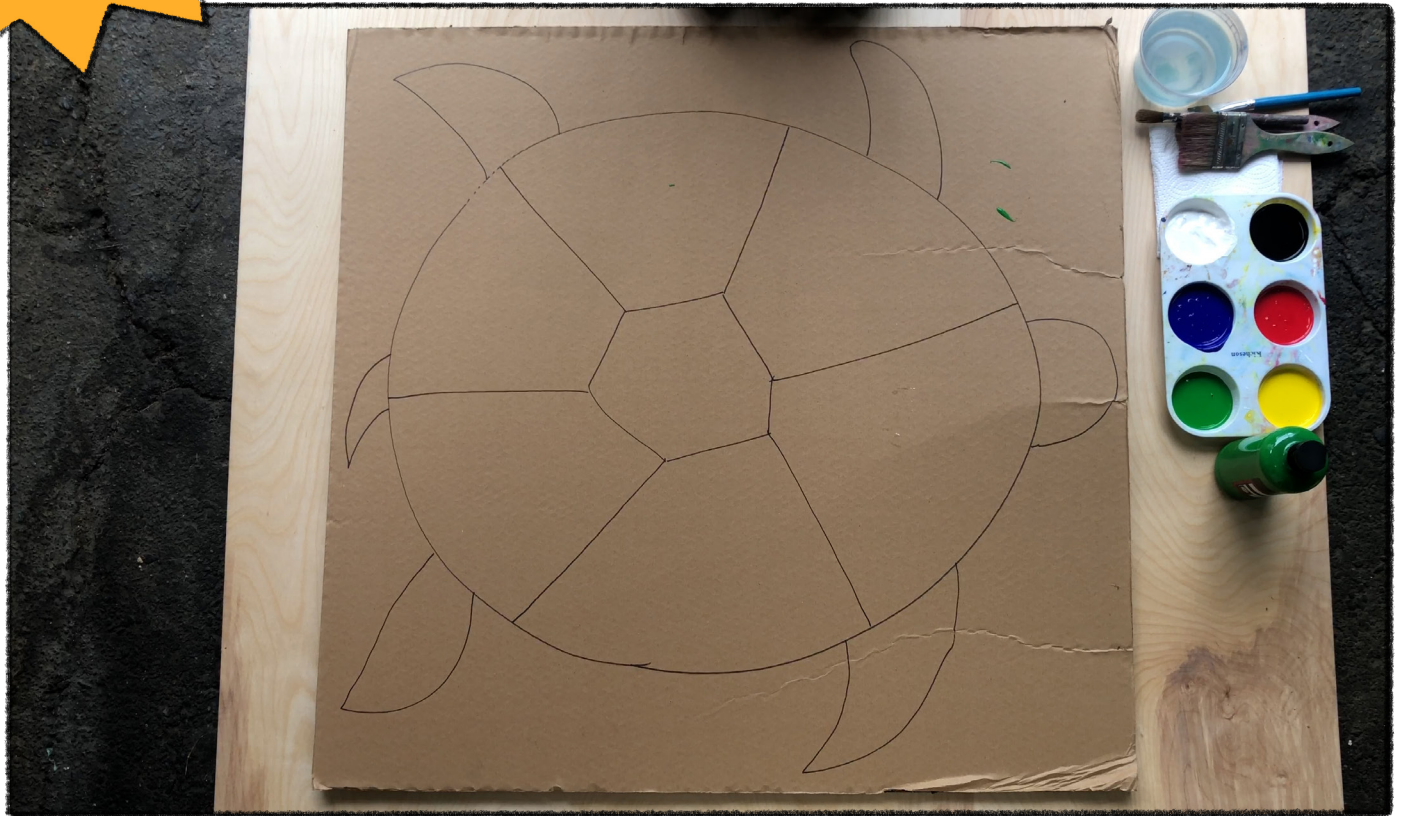


Get a big piece of cardboard and something to draw with. Draw a big circle. This will be the turtle's body. Add the head, legs or flippers, and the tail. You get to decide: Are your turtle's head and legs sticking out? Or are some of those body parts hidden inside your shell? You draw your turtle as you want it to be!

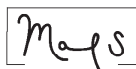


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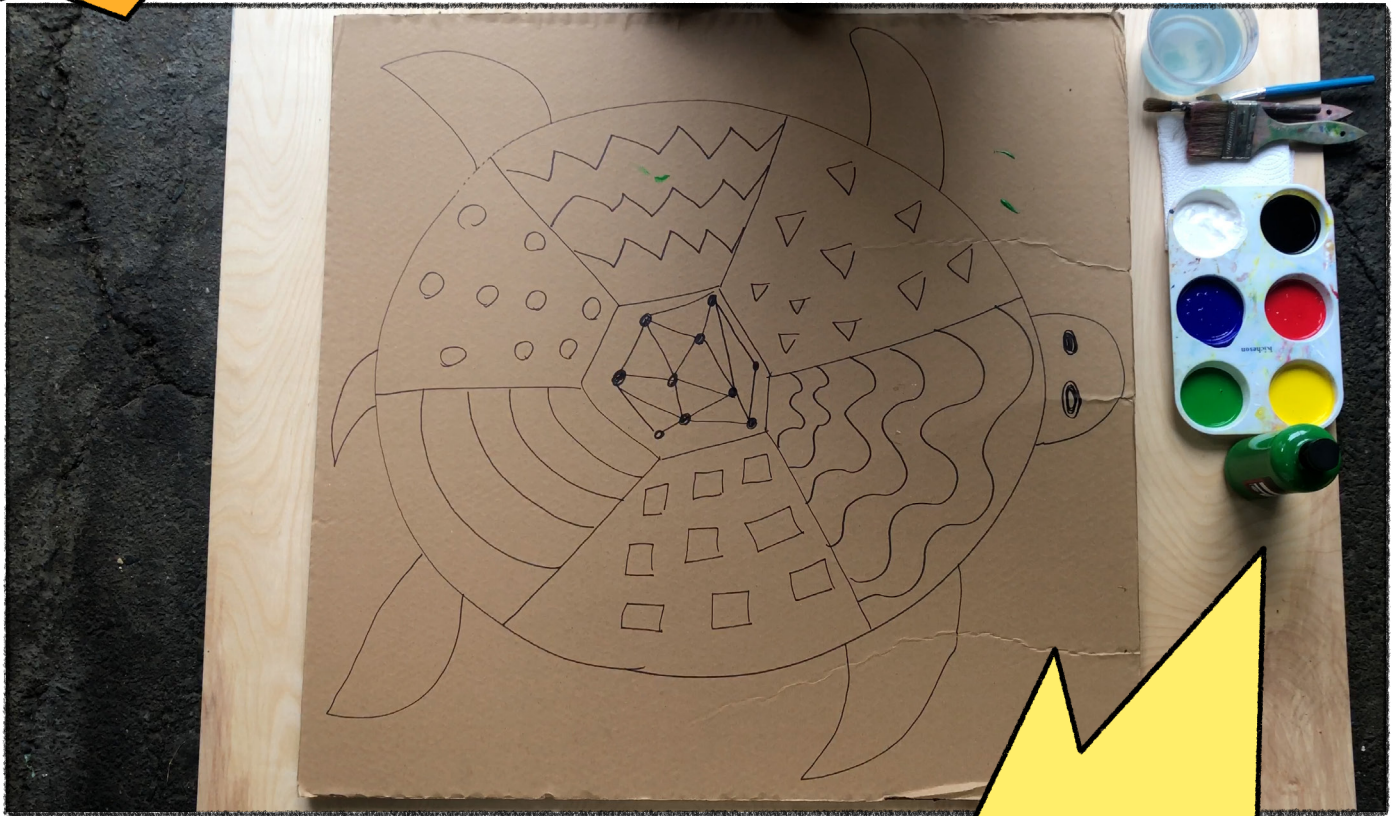
Divide the shell into sections, just like we did with the paper in our warm-up.



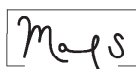
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Add some shapes and patterns inside each section.



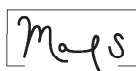
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Now it's time to paint. Make sure you have paint, brushes, some water to rinse, a paper towel to dry and something to mix colors in. Start by mixing a couple colors together to find new hues. If you're not sure where to begin, just choose two colors and mix them together to see what you get! Mix as many colors as you possibly can. Don't forget to paint them on your turtle!



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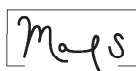
When you're done with the first layer of paint, let your turtle dry. Once the paint has dried, mix some more colors and fill in the remaining areas of your turtle. You could add stripes or dots over what you already painted. You could outline parts of your turtle with another color.



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Once this coat has dried, flip your turtle over and paint the back side white.



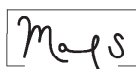
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Let the white paint dry and then ask a grown-up to cut out your turtle with a box cutter.

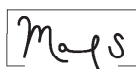


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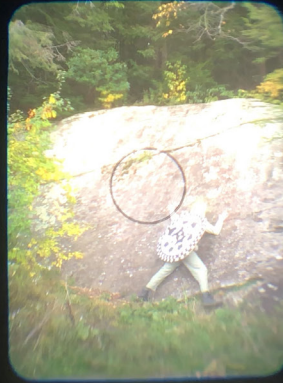


Now you're ready to play with contrast. Use black paint to create a bunch of different designs on the back side of your turtle. Once the black paint has dried, your turtle is complete!



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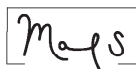
Now you're ready to take your turtle into the wild! Go outside and play. Be your turtle. Think like your turtle. Walk like your turtle. Climb like your turtle. Dance like your turtle. Crawl like your turtle. Hide like your turtle. Do as many turtle-y things as you can do.



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Get a friend to take photos of you being your turtle with an instant camera, capturing the exact moments when you really are your turtle.



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