

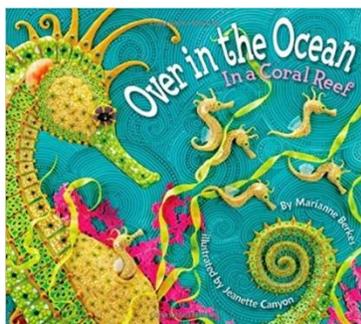
PNC **tiny**  
**THURSDAYS**  
...at home!

Time: 20-30 minutes

Messiness: low

Adult involvement: moderate

## Clay Turtle Play!



**Description:** young artists will discover the world of animals in the ocean and create their own clay turtle!

**Story:** [“Over in the Ocean”](#) written by Marianne Berkes and illustrated by Jeanette Canyon (Dawn Publications; 2004)

### Let's talk about this artwork!

- What do you see?
- How many turtles can you find in this sculpture?
  - If these turtles could speak, what might they say?
  - What mood do you think these creatures are in? What makes you say that?
- Name the colors used in this artwork.
  - What colors would you have chosen if you were the artist?
- This artwork is a sculpture and can be enjoyed from many different angles.
  - What did you notice first?
  - What did you notice when you



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## Materials Needed

- 1) air dry clay
- 2) newsprint or newspaper
- 3) toothpick
- 4) straw



## Project Skills

- 1) Fine / Gross Motor
  - a) kneading
  - b) pinching
  - c) embossing
- 2) Language Development
  - a) expressive: speaking
  - b) receptive: listening
  - c) discussing
- 3) 21<sup>st</sup>-Century
  - a) critical thinking
  - b) creativity

## Project Instructions

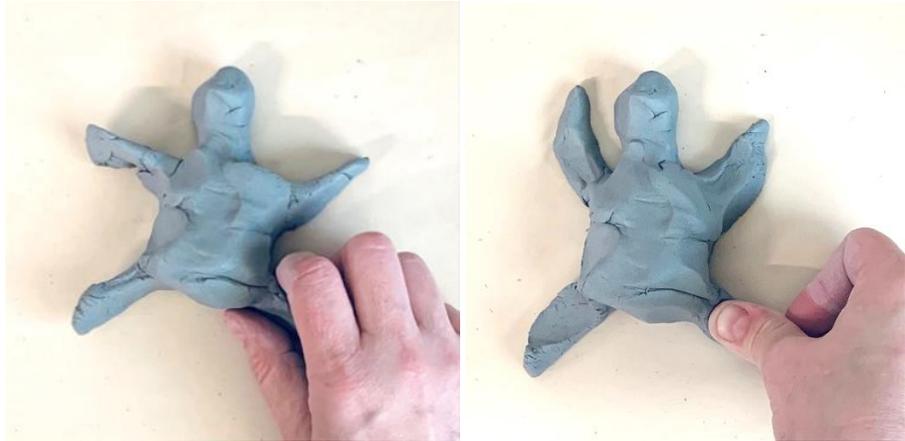
- 1) Cover your work surface in newsprint or newspaper. Sometimes air dry clay is sticky or damp, and the paper will protect your surfaces. Start working your clay by pounding it onto the table. This will help soften it. **Knead**, or work the clay in your hands by squeezing and refolding until you have roughly an oval shape.



- 2) Starting at the top of your oval, use your fingers to pinch out three sections: a round shape in the middle for the head, and two thinner sections to be the turtle's front legs.

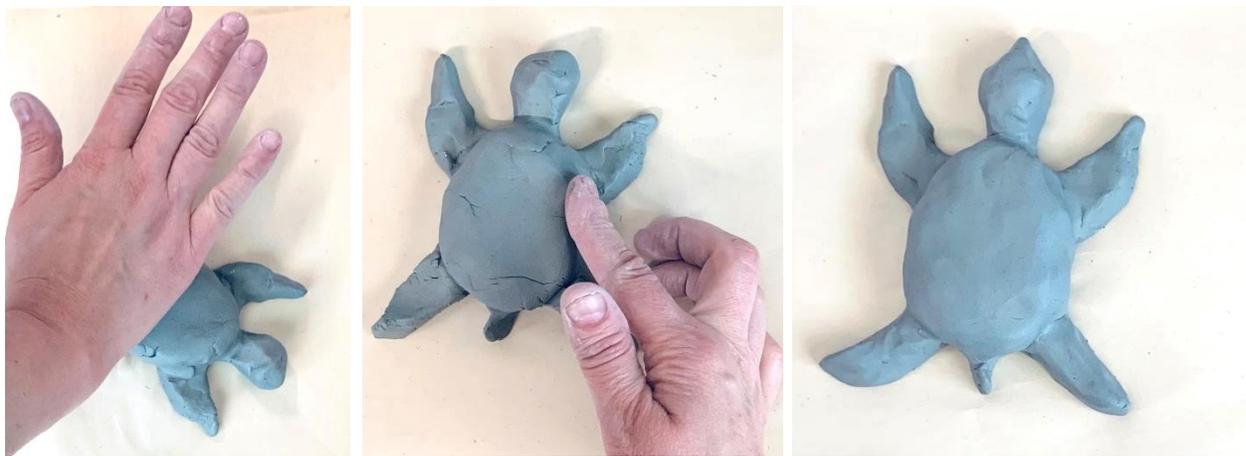


- 3) Pinch to form back legs for the turtle, and then use your thumb to press down and flatten the area where the legs meet the body. Then pinch a tail in between the back legs.



- 4) Use your whole hand to flatten just the body of the turtle. Using fingertips, smooth the clay by gliding over the surface or rubbing in tiny, small circles. Try to smooth around the shell and keep an oval shape.

**Helpful hint:** dampen finger with water to smooth stubborn areas.



- 5) Using a toothpick, press or draw diagonal lines across the turtle's shell. Try to keep them evenly spaced. Then press or draw lines going the opposite direction, evenly spaced. You can also draw diamonds, triangles, or another shape to decorate the shell



6) Using your straw, poke two holes for eyes into the turtle's head.

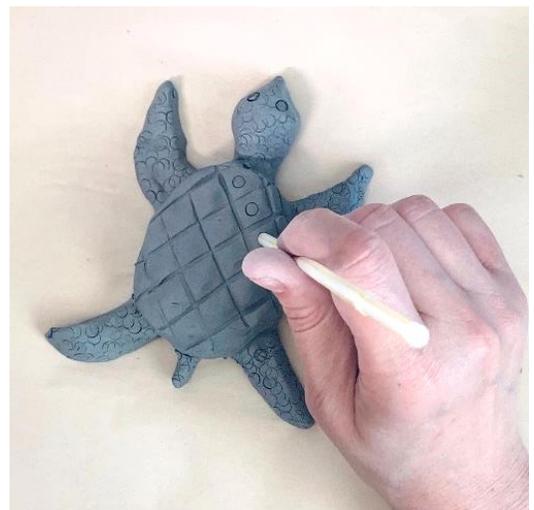


7) Pressing more gently, use the straw to give a texture to your turtle's skin. You can overlap the circles or try pressing in other items for different textures! Apply same texture to head, legs, and tail.

**Helpful hint:** if you do not like a texture you have made, use your fingertip to gently smooth the clay and try a new one!



8) Use your straw or other tool to add extra textures to the shell's surface.



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9) Name your turtle friend!



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Questions about or ideas for Tiny Thursdays at Home? Email [edu@daytonart.org](mailto:edu@daytonart.org)