

HOW TO MAKE A BUTTON MOSAIC TURTLE



This activity will help Cubs meet the Creative Activity Badge requirement; make a model out of clay.

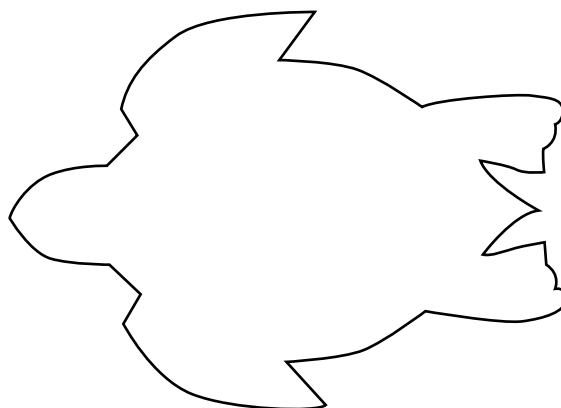
This project uses air dry clay and buttons to create a mosaic animal. This activity shows you how to make a turtle, but you can pick anything you like as long as you keep the shape simple.

Time needed: 1 hour 30 minutes (plus drying time)

You will need

- Air dry clay
- A3 paper
- Green buttons
- Cream buttons
- Wiggly eyes
- Gloss Mod Podge (sealer glue)
- Cling film
- Sandpaper
- Butter knife (non sharp)
- Red heart button (optional)

1. Begin by drawing a turtle for a template – or print out the image on page 3 to fit onto A3 paper and then cut it out.



2. Put the template under a large sheet of cling film. Take a lump of clay – about the size of a grapefruit – and roll out to a thickness of six millimetres to fit the template. Tear off any overhanging pieces and fill in any gaps so that the whole template is covered. Don't worry if the clay isn't smooth as the surface will be covered with buttons. Now pull out the template, place it on top of the clay and cut around it with the butter knife.



3. Wet your fingers and smooth the edges. Then use the knife to gently score around the legs, arms and head so you know where to put the different coloured buttons.



- 4.** Firmly press mixed green buttons into the turtle to form its shell. Start at the outer edge and work your way into the middle. Overlap the buttons at the edge of the clay and fill any small gaps with little buttons. You may need to wet the clay slightly as you go to keep it sticky, which will help keep the buttons in place. You can place a small red heart button in the middle of the shell too.



- 5.** Add wiggly eyes to the head by pushing them firmly into the clay. Then add cream buttons to the head and feet using the same technique. Once all the buttons are in place, gently press them down into the clay with your hands.



- 6.** Leave the turtle to dry for a few days or until it goes hard. Lightly sand around the edges of the clay.



- 7.** Finally, add a few coats of Gloss Mod Podge to seal in the buttons – but don't put it over the eyes as it will make them opaque!



If you want to hang your button turtle, attach a paper clip to the back with strong glue.



