

Box Turtle Puppet

Overview:

Make a box turtle puppet with a paper strip for your hand to hold onto.

Objective:

Recognize that turtles are reptiles and the reason why they are classified as such (i.e. they have claws and scales, they lay eggs on land, and their young look like the parents only smaller.)

Links to Iowa Core:

Life Science (Grades K-2): Students will understand and apply knowledge of the characteristics of living things and how living things are both similar to and different from each other and from non-living things. Students will understand and apply knowledge of life cycles of plants and animals.

Time: 30 minutes

Materials:

- Copy of patterns found below
- Construction paper
- Scissors
- 9-inch paper plate (or smaller if making baby turtles)
- Crayons, markers, and/or paint
- White glue
- Paper punch (optional)
- Paper fastener (optional)
- Paper grocery bag
- Stapler

Procedure:

1. Start by showing the class pictures of some of Iowa's native turtles. Review what makes a turtle a turtle and why they are reptiles.
2. Use the patterns to trace a head, tail, and four feet onto construction paper. Draw eyes, a mouth, and nostrils on the head. Draw claws on the feet. Cut them out and set them aside. You could also use googly eyes for your turtle.
3. Color the bottom of the paper plate with crayons to look like a turtle shell, or glue on squares of construction paper. The design or construction paper squares represent the scales on the shells of real turtles.
4. If you would like the head to move, punch a hole in the head and the shell. Fasten the head to the shell with a paper fastener.
5. Glue on the feet and tail so they stick out from under the shell.
6. To turn your turtle into a puppet, staple a strip of paper grocery bag, 2 x 11 inches long, under the shell.
7. Insert your hand between the strip and the shell, grasping the strip in your fist.

*From:

“Box Turtle Puppet.” *Ranger Rick's NatureScope: Wild and Crafty*. New York, NY: McGraw-Hill, 1998. 78-79.

