

Learning ideas for little ones

Attention/Memory

- Look at two steps and discuss what's different (what changed between picture 2 and picture 3?).
- Look at a picture, then take it away. What details can your little one remember?

Language

- Explain the steps, then ask your little one to tell you the steps. Use the pictures to help with this as needed.
- Let your little one make a creature, then ask them how they did it.
- Ask your little one to make a new creature and explain why they chose that creature.
- Name your creature, then ask your little one to give their creature a name. See if you can create a story with your characters.
- Practice directional prepositions (above, under, behind, between, etc.).

Math/Science

- Compare materials and discuss properties such as texture, soft/hard, light/heavy, etc.
- Count steps, pieces of pipe cleaner, eyes, legs, chunks, etc.
- Discuss what animals you're making and details about them (Where do they live? What do they eat? How big are they?).
- Discuss relative sizes including small, medium, and large.

Learning ideas for older kids

Attention/Memory

- Ask your kid to memorize the steps to making one of the creatures, then hide the pictures and let them try it.
- Give your kid the steps to two creatures and ask them to identify similarities/differences in the steps.

Language

- Retell the steps to make one of the creatures.
- Create a fictional story about one of the critters or write a factual piece about it.
- Compare/contrast the process of making two different creatures (verbally or written).
- Describe one of the creatures in great detail (colors, sizes, textures, smell, flaws, features, etc.).
- Choose two creatures to sculpt, then create an interaction (factual or fiction) between them.

Math/Science

- Describe the properties of each of the materials (weight, density, flexibility, etc.).
- Work in math equations (Can you put 7-2 stripes on the tail of the fish or 3x4 squares on the turtle's back?)
- Discuss the habitat of each animal and how they're related in their ecosystems or food chains.
- Discuss the animal's classification (reptile, insect, mammal, etc.) and attributes.

Turtle



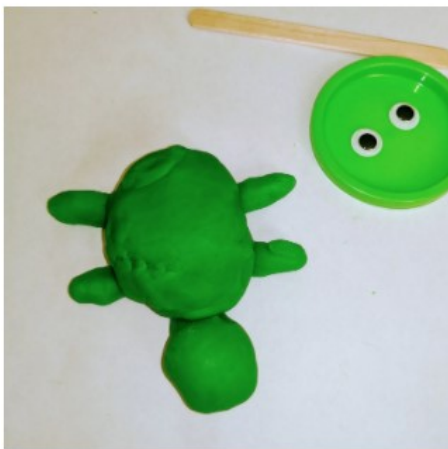
1. Start with a tub of dough, two eyes, and a popsicle stick (optional).



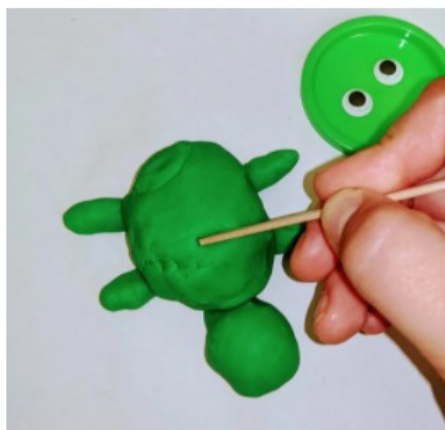
2. Split the dough into one large chunk, one medium chunk, and four small chunks.



3. Form the large chunk into a dome, the medium chunk into a ball with a tail, and the smaller chunks into wide "snakes."



4. Assemble the head, body, and legs.



5. Draw the shapes on the turtle's back.



6. Place the eyes on the turtle's head and carve a smile.

Snail



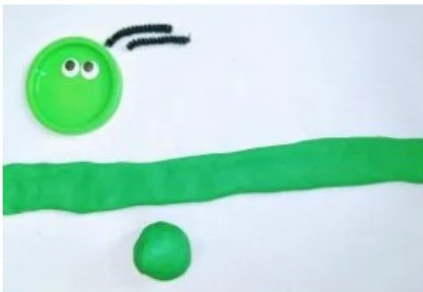
1. Start with a tub of dough, two eyes, and two pipe cleaner pieces.



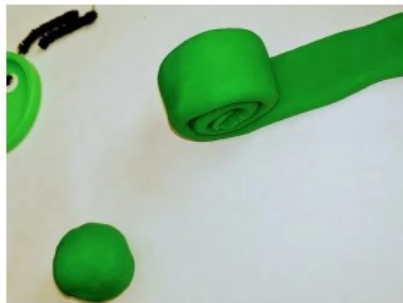
2. Split the dough into a large chunk and a small chunk.



3. Roll the small chunk into a ball and the large chunk into a "snake."



4. Gently press the "snake" flat.



5. Roll the flat strip leaving a small bit at the end.

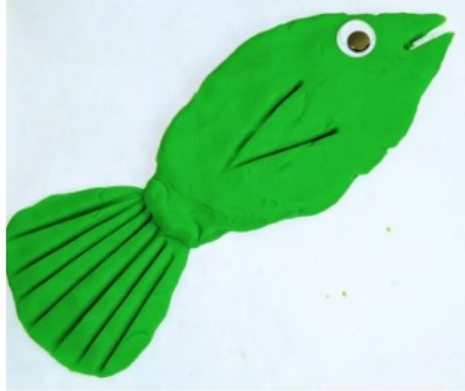


6. Put the ball on top of the bit that sticks out.



7. Roll the pipe cleaners into circles at their ends. Then, add the eyes and pipe cleaner antennae.

Fish



1. Start with a tub of dough, one eye, and a popsicle stick.



2. Split the dough into a large chunk and a small chunk.



3. Flatten both chunks. Shape the large chunk into a football (body) and the small chunk into a triangle (tail).



4. Push the tail and the body together. Then, press the stick into the tail to make the lines on it.

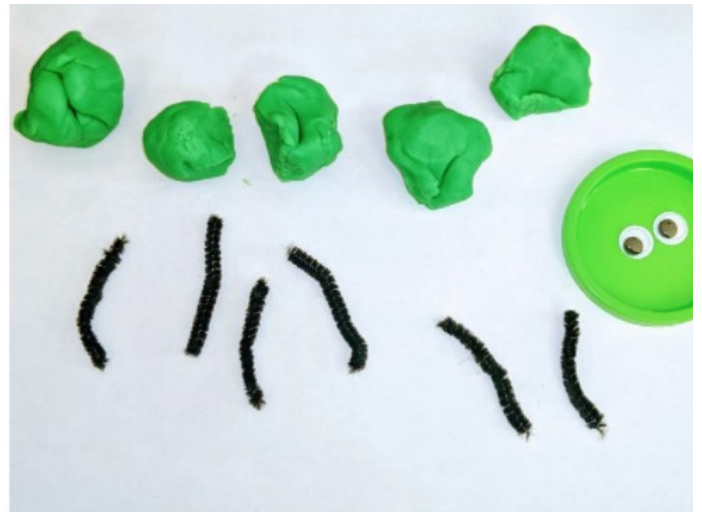


5. Add the eye and use the stick to make the fin.

Caterpillar



1. Start with a tub of dough, six pipe cleaner pieces, and two eyes.



2. Split the dough into five chunks.



3. Roll the five chunks into balls and press them together in a line.



4. Insert one leg into the right and left side of each middle ball. Finally, press the eyes onto the head.

Octopus



1. Start with a tub of dough and two eyes.



2. Break the dough into eight small chunks and one medium chunk.



3. Roll the eight small chunks into "snakes." Form the medium chunk into a ball sitting on a wide base. Put the eyes on the ball.

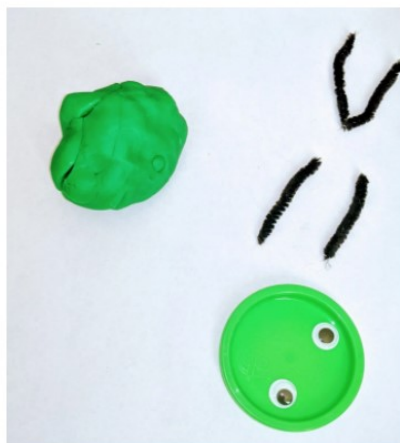


4. Arrange the eight "snakes" into squiggles with one end touching the others in the center.



5. Put the head in the middle and gently press it into place.

Mouse



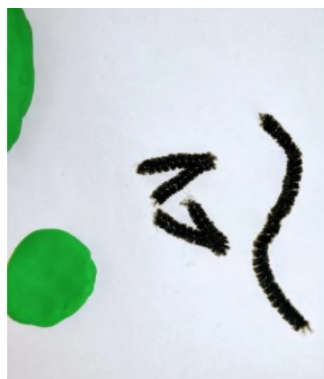
1. Start with one tub of dough, four pipe cleaner pieces, and two eyes. v"



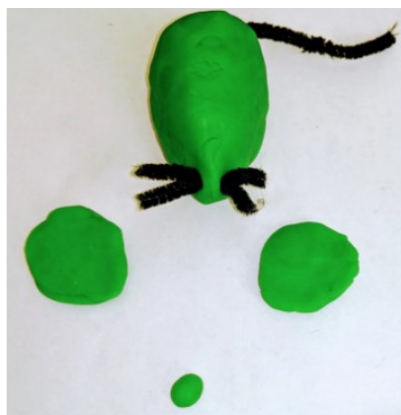
2. Split the dough into one large chunk, two medium chunks, and one tiny chunk.



3. Form the large chunk into an egg and roll the tiny chunk into a ball. Press the medium chunks into flat circles.



4. Bend two pipe cleaners into "V" shapes and twist the other two together to make a long tail.



5. Press the points of the V's into the narrow end of the egg and press the tail into the wide end of the egg.

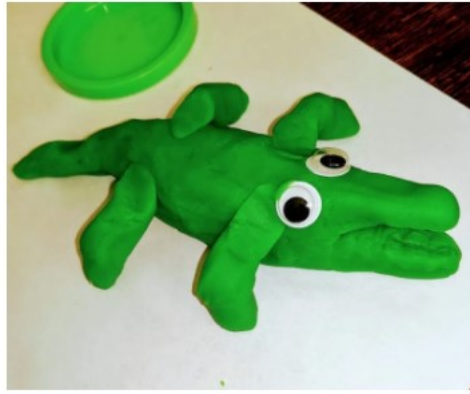


6. Press the tiny ball between the pipe cleaner whiskers and place one ear behind each of them.



7. Add the eyes between the ears and above the nose.

Alligator



1. Start with one tub of dough and two eyes.



2. Split the dough into one large chunk and four small chunks.



3. Shape the large chunk into a long football shape with a narrow tail and wider mouth.



4. Roll the four small chunks into ovals.



5. Use a stick or finger to open the mouth by cutting into it.



6. Press the legs onto the body and eyes onto the head.