



for kids
by kids

Celebrate half-shelled heroes

By **LAUREN MURPHY**
Of No Adults Allowed

Because we banned plastic bags to help save turtles – technically, it was to save all the animals, but turtles are my favorite – I had to this opportunity to make a turtle craft, how could I not?

For this craft you'll need:

- Popsicle sticks (three per turtle)
- Green paint or marker
- Paint brushes (optional)
- Glue
- Yarn
- Black marker

The first thing we need to do is make our popsicle sticks turtle colors. I made mine green because I'm boring, but feel free to make them any color you'd like.

Paint or color both sides of the popsicle stick, you can use a paint brush or, if your adult says yes, you can use a finger.

After the paint dries, we'll need to glue the popsicle sticks together. Remember there should be three popsicle sticks per turtle.

Glue two of them together in an x and let it dry. Glue the x on the middle of the third popsicle stick (it should look like x but bigger).

In a perfect world, the sticks would all be spaced out evenly, but that is not the world we live in, so don't sweat it if they aren't all glued exactly in the middle.

After, and only after, the glue has completely dried we can move onto the next step. While experimenting

in the office, I found that doing this next step when it's "mostly dry" results in a broken turtle.

So now that your glue is 100 percent dry we're going to use the yarn. Hold your turtle so that the x is standing upright. Wrap the yarn around the center of the x so that it's covered.

If you start weaving and you can still see the stick in the middle, that's okay; unweave, go back and wrap the string around the middle a few times, and then start weaving the outside shell.

On the smaller turtles, I wrapped it five or six times. For the bigger ones I wrapped it 12 or 13 times. Leave a little bit of yarn out when you start wrapping, we'll tie it off later.

Once you've covered the middle of the turtle, it's time to start weaving. This particular pattern is called a "god's eye."

I will admit it took me several attempts to figure it out but, once I got it, the rest was easy and kind of fun.

When you finish covering the middle of the turtle (when you can no longer see where the popsicle sticks connect) you should be able to bring the yarn over the top of one of the sticks.

Wrap the yarn around that stick and then bring it over to the top of the next one. It should come over the top of the stick, go underneath, and then go over to the next one in a loop-de-loop pattern.

Continue to work your way around the



sticks, eventually it should start to look like a shell.

(Tip: there are many videos demonstrating god's eye weaving online. If you're really stuck ask your adult to pull one up for you.)

If you want to get really crazy, you can change the color of yarn to change the color of the shell. To change yarn colors just cut the strand of yarn you started with, tie it to a new strand, and continue with

the pattern.

Once you're satisfied with the size and colors of your shell, cut the yarn, but be sure to leave enough room at the end of your string to tie it to the original piece we left out at the beginning.

If you cut your yarn too short, that's okay, unwind it until it's long enough to reach. No one will ever know.

Lastly, use a marker and draw a smiley face

on the tip of the stick that will be the head. Then go to the other side of that same popsicle stick and draw a little tail.

The other four "limbs" are feet. You can give your turtle toes if you want too, or even a cool foot tattoo. From here, the only thing that limits your decoration is your crafting supplies and imagination.

OUR STORY

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The current staff is dedicated to publishing the best newspaper for the people of Keizer – they deserve nothing less.

LET'S MEET **Andrew Jackson**

Graphic Designer & Production Manager (Born & Resides: Salem)

EDUCATION: Graduate of McNary High School, and holds degrees from Chemeketa Community College (AAS) and Oregon State University (BFA)

MY ROLE: I pride myself on being a jack-of-all-trades. My main role is to create effective advertising for every publication – from concept to final design – for all our clients. I also design the special section covers and the newspaper's front page each week.

WHY THE KEIZERTIMES? Graphic design, my first love – led me to our community newspaper one romantic February day, many moons ago. Every day, I'm blessed to use my abilities to

help local businesses promote their goods and services. I love what I do.

COMMUNITY NEWSPAPERS: Social media is good for rumors – small town newspapers are great for truth.

MY PASSION: Trying to make everyone laugh at all times – except funerals.

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