Sea Turtle Mosaic

MAKE • EXPLORE • DISCOVER | 4–10 with an adult · Time: 30–45 minutes

Build a sea turtle from paper colors and patterns. Start with the supplied outline, arrange your pieces and turn reused paper into an ocean keepsake.

YOU WILL NEED

Printed turtle base and your choice of paper-piece sheet • Crayons, child-safe scissors and a glue stick • Optional clean scrap paper or old magazines • An adult to help cut and talk about the turtle

1. Meet your sea turtle

Find the head, long front flippers, shorter rear flippers and shell on the supplied outline. The large spaces inside the shell are areas to decorate. This is an artistic sea turtle model, not a species identification diagram.

2. Choose your paper palette

Pick three or four colors, such as sea blue, green, sand and brown. Color the supplied paper pieces before cutting, or gather clean paper scraps. Your turtle can use imaginative colors; real turtles do not all share one pattern.

3. Cut or tear your pieces

Little Explorers can use the larger shapes on page 3, with adult help, or tear bigger scraps. Junior Explorers can choose the smaller shapes on page 4. The pieces are flexible mosaic tiles, not an exact-fit puzzle.

4. Arrange before you glue

Lay the dry pieces within the shell outline. Turn and overlap them or leave tiny gaps. Keep the turtle’s outer silhouette visible. Try two arrangements before choosing one; there is no single correct design.

5. Glue your ocean mosaic

Lift one piece at a time, add a little glue and return it to the paper. Work across the shell. Color the head and flippers, then let the page dry flat. Leave the finished turtle on the full sheet or ask an adult to help cut around it.

6. Finish with a discovery

On the back or in the supplied box, draw a line to one front flipper and say what you notice about its shape. Add one action that gives real turtles space, such as observing from a distance and following local beach guidance.

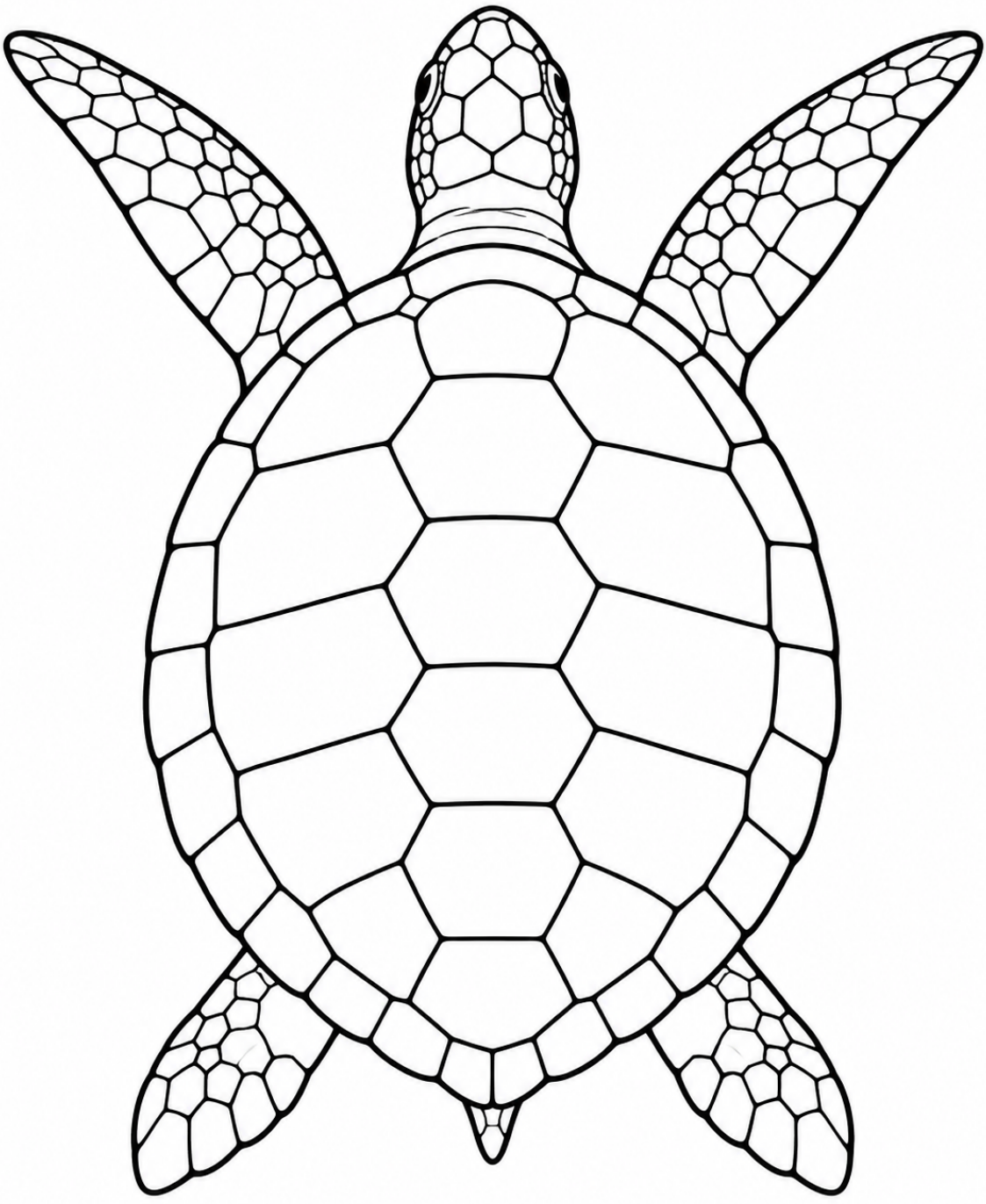
EXPLORE WITH CARE

An adult helps with scissors. Keep small scraps away from very young children and collect them after the craft. This is a paper activity; never attach decorations to wildlife or approach turtles for a closer look.

Background: Smithsonian Ocean: sea turtle shells

Your turtle mosaic base

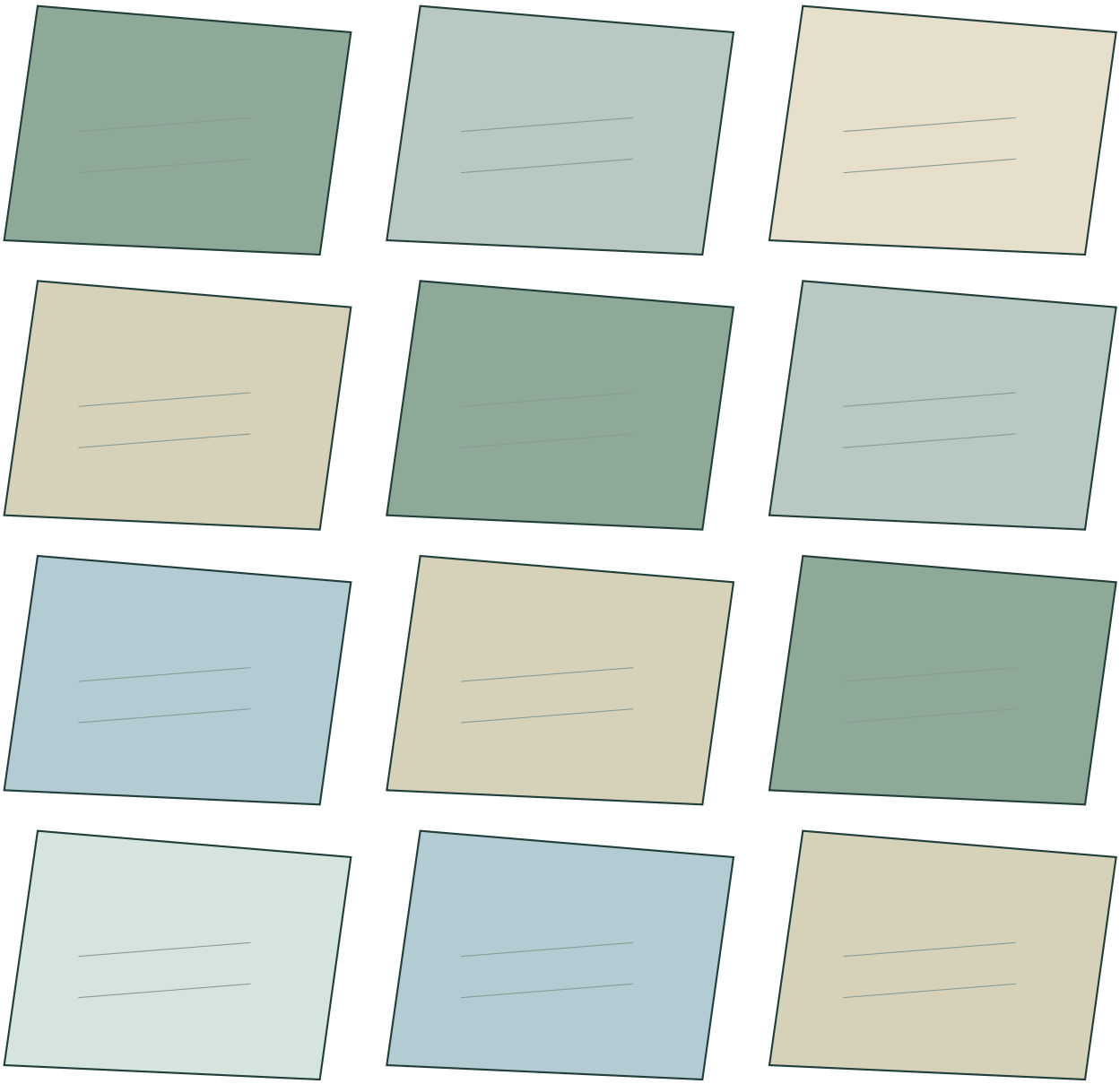
Arrange pieces before gluing. Keep the turtle outline visible. Color the head and flippers.



An artistic sea turtle model, not a species identification diagram. The shell spaces are decoration areas; the paper pieces do not fit them like a jigsaw.

Larger paper pieces

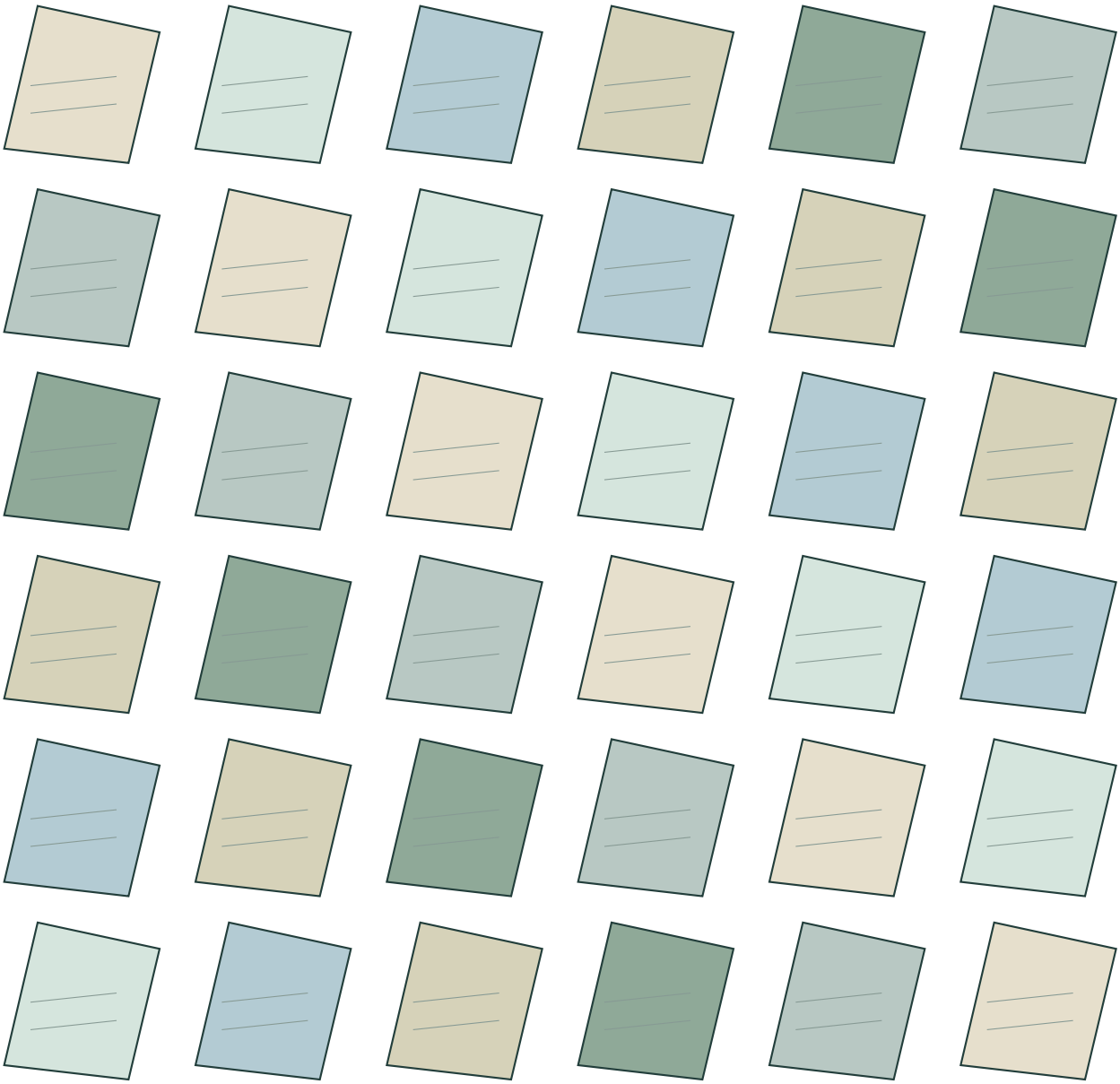
Color these pieces or print in color. Cut or tear, arrange, then glue. Reused paper works too.



Little Explorers: start with the larger pieces or torn scraps.
Junior Explorers: mix sizes or make a repeating pattern.
These are flexible mosaic tiles. Turn, overlap or trim them; no exact fit is required.

Smaller paper pieces

Color these pieces or print in color. Cut or tear, arrange, then glue. Reused paper works too.



Little Explorers: start with the larger pieces or torn scraps.
Junior Explorers: mix sizes or make a repeating pattern.
These are flexible mosaic tiles. Turn, overlap or trim them; no exact fit is required.

MY TURTLE DISCOVERY: _____
ONE WAY TO CARE FOR THE OCEAN: _____