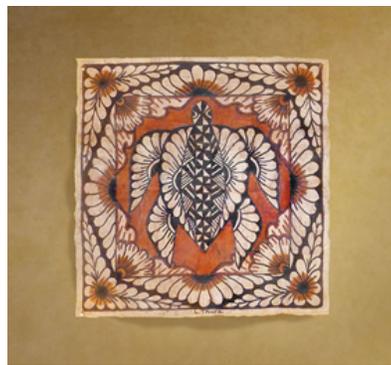


# LESSON PLAN

## AT-HOME ART PROJECT: Tapa Inspired Sea Turtle

### INSTRUCTIONS



### INSPIRATION ART: Tapa Cloths

Bark cloth, or *tapa* is made from bark that has been softened through a process of soaking and beating. The inner bark is taken from several types of trees or shrubs, often mulberry and fig, and designs are applied with paints and vegetable dyes of light brown, red, and black. Bark cloth is manufactured for everyday needs such as room dividers, clothing, and floor mats, as well as ceremonial uses in weddings and funerals.

Though there are a variety of local names, the word *tapa*, originally from Tahiti, is commonly used to refer to bark cloth made all over the world. While *tapa* cloth is most often recognized as a Polynesian craft, it has also been made in South America, Indonesia, New Guinea, Melanesia, and parts of Africa.

### MATERIALS NEEDED FROM HOME:

- White or light-colored paper
- Pencil and Eraser
- Black Sharpie or marker
- Colored pencils, markers or crayons.
- Optional: Ruler or straight edge

**ART PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** Using patterns and motifs, at home artists will design a tapa inspired turtle focusing on the intricate designs on top of and surrounding the turtle shell.

- **Tapa Cloth;** (or simply *tapa*) is a decorative bark cloth made in the islands of the Pacific Ocean, primarily in Tonga, Samoa and Fiji, but as far afield as Niue, Cook Islands, Futuna, Solomon Islands, Java, New Zealand, Vanuatu, Papua New Guinea and Hawaii (where it is called *kapa*)

## LESSON PLAN

- **Motif:** is a recurring fragment, theme or pattern that appears in a work of art

### PROMPT QUESTIONS:

- What are the parts of a turtle? What shapes do you notice in the turtle? What is a motif? What shapes and patterns can you use in your motif?
- Tapas often tell a story about the creator's life, culture or environment. Will you tell a story in your work of art? If so, what story will you choose to tell? Why?
- What shapes and patterns will you use to tell your story?
- How will you choose what colors to add to your design?

### ART MAKING PROCESS:

#### Step 1:

- Begin by drawing an egg shape for the sea turtle's body. The bottom part where the head will be is **more** rounded and slightly larger than the top.

#### Step 2:

- Draw the front boomerang-shaped flippers, one on each side of where the head will be. Add two back flippers, which are smaller and are almost a triangular shape.

#### Step 3:

- Draw the head. Using pencil, add designs to the turtle's shell, head and flippers.

#### Step 4:

- Add a border around your sea turtle. You can use a ruler or simply free draw the lines. Fill with designs and motifs, focusing on creativity and symmetry rather than perfection. Keep in mind if you will be using images in our artwork that tells a specific story.

#### Step 5:

- Trace over all the lines with a black Sharpie or marker and erase any visible pencil marks.

#### Step 6:

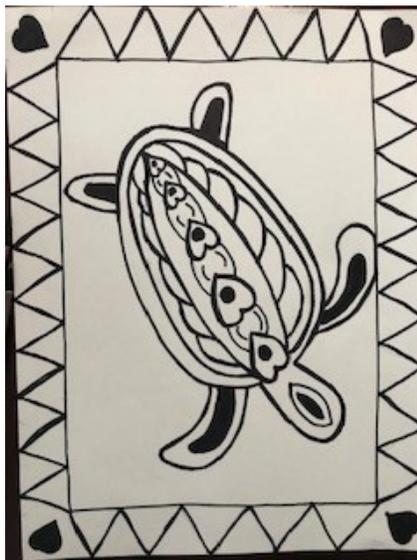
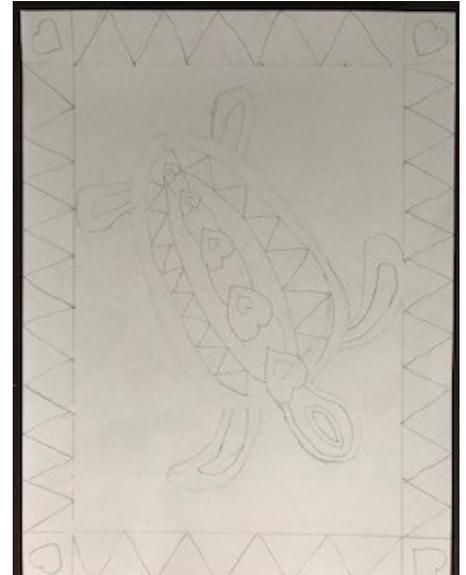
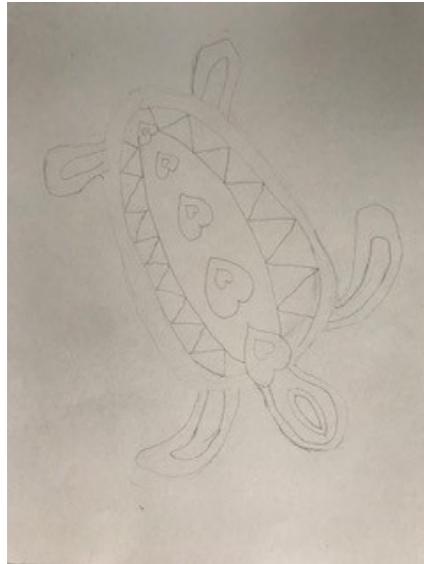
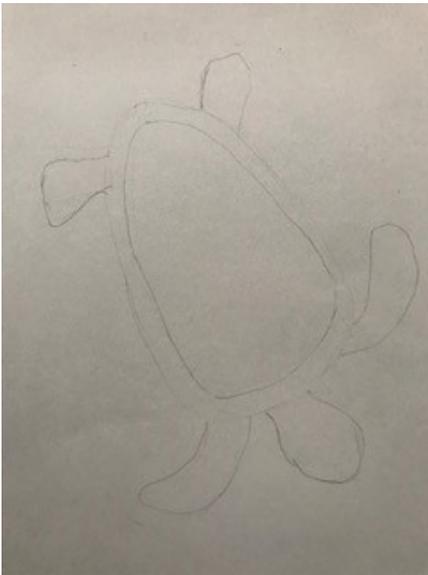
- Fill with color.

### POST PROMPT QUESTIONS:

- What challenges did you face creating your designs? How did you problem solve?
- Did your designs change as you worked?

# LESSON PLAN

## ART PROJECT EXAMPLE:



## SOURCES:

<https://www.tapapacifica.com/tongan-ngatu-tapa-cloths.html>

<https://mnch.uoregon.edu/collections-galleries/tapa-cloth>