

## BUILD A TURTLE SHELL

Turtles have shells made up of bony plates called scutes. The top part is called the carapace and usually has 13 inner scutes. The bottom part of the shell is called the plastron. The shell is fused to a turtle's backbone, which means turtles cannot leave their shell.



## MATERIALS YOU'LL NEED:

- Large Cardboard
- Scissors
- Tape
- String or rope
- Coloring materials (crayons, markers, paint, chalk, etc)

### STEP 1

Cut up a box or find large pieces of cardboard. You might need to tape pieces together to make a large oval shape.

### STEP 2

Trace out a turtle shell shape using the diagram as a guide. If you're up for it, create a top (carapace) and bottom (plastron) piece!

### STEP 3

Decorate and color your shell pieces. Make sure you have enough scutes!

### STEP 4

Cut away excess cardboard and punch two holes near the top of the shell pieces.

### STEP 5

Thread ribbon or rope through the holes to create two shoulder straps.

