

Paper Plate Snail Activity Guide

Supplies for activities needed:

- Snail head template OR paper and pencil to draw own snail head



- - Paper plate
 - Tissue paper (2-5 colors)
 - Scissors
 - Glue stick, liquid glue, and/or tape
 - Googly eyes
 - Colored paper (for snail head)
- School Readiness Outcomes (SRO) goals met:
 - Through this activity, the child will become familiar with creating a pattern of 2+ colors and repeating that pattern - Identifies Patterns
 - This activity will help the child group similar items together based on colors - Sorts Objects

- Instructions

1. First, the child will need to gather their supplies. They will need: a paper plate, googly eyes, a glue stick or liquid glue, colorful tissue paper, one piece of colored paper of their choice, scissors, and a pencil to draw their snail head or the snail head template.
2. Next, the child will trace or draw their snail head. They can make the snail's head whatever shape they would like. My head looked sort of like a sideways sock, if they need some inspiration! Then, cut out the snail head and glue or tape onto the paper plate. The curved end should be facing out from the plate and the flat side taped or glued to the edge of the paper plate.
3. Then, glue some googly eyes onto your snail head! The child can put as many as they would like, I used only two. The snail head can also be decorated with eyebrows, a smile, a nose, and a small design if the child wishes.
4. Next, the child will need to pick out at least 2 colors of tissue paper for the snail's shell pattern. I used 3 colors, but the child may choose up to 5. The tissue paper will need to be folded in half. After the tissue paper is folded in half, about a 1 inch strip will need to be cut. 1-2 strips can be cut of each color in the pattern.
5. Then, the child will take each strip of their colored tissue paper and cut small squares. Hold the strip by making it really long, then take your scissors and cut about 1 inch squares. Repeat for each strip. After all the squares are cut out, sort the squares into piles by color. I had three colors, so I had three piles.
6. Next, remember the pattern that was chosen earlier! Start by taking one square of the first color in the pattern and glue anywhere on the back-sided edge of the plate. Then, take the second color in the pattern and glue next to the first square.

Repeat with the rest of the colored squares in the pattern and then repeat the pattern until the entire shell is full of colorful squares. The pattern can be made into a “swirl” as shown below.

7. And the snail is finished! Gather friends and family with their paper plate snails and have a snail race! See who is the fastest snail in the group. Additionally, identify the different colors in your pattern of your snail compared to other snails. What is similar and different?



Extension Activity:

- Try explaining how to make a pattern to someone else!
- Help a friend create their own paper plate snail with a colorful pattern!

