Quill a swirly turtle

FEATHERED FRIENDS
The word "quilling" comes from the tools once used to coil paper: birds' feathers – or "quills".

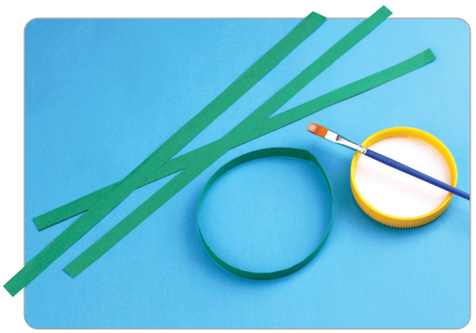
Quilling is a technique for making designs that involves coiling and folding paper strips to make 3D shapes. The technique is hundreds of years old and some believe it can be traced back to the ancient Egyptians. It was also a popular hobby for wealthy women in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Here, we're going to show you how to use quilling to create a swirly turtle to celebrate Earth Day (22 April). This year it's all about raising awareness of plastic pollution, which affects all marine life. If you enjoy quilling, try making more paper sea creatures to create an underwater scene.

What you need

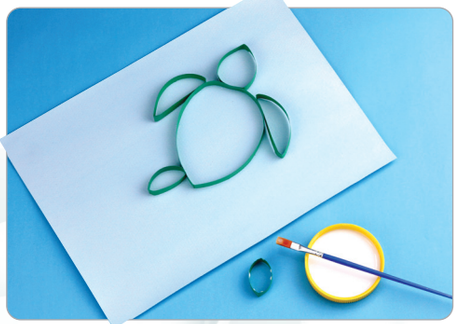
- Thin coloured paper or magazines
- A ruler
- A pencil
- Scissors
- Glue
- Card for a background
- A thin wooden skewer

1 Cut A4 coloured paper or magazine pages into 1cm-wide strips, along the longer side. You'll need around 20 strips to make a turtle.



2 To make a frame for the turtle's body, curl a strip into a circle then glue the ends together so they overlap. Gently squash it into an oval.

3 Make five circles for the flippers and head using shorter paper strips. Squash the sides so they look like the above.



4 Brush glue on the underside of the body and stick on a card sheet. Stick the head and flippers on one at a time, as above. Leave to dry.

5 To make your coils, curl a paper strip around a skewer into a tight spiral. Slide it off the stick, let it open slightly, then glue the end to secure.

6 Brush glue over the coils one at a time and stick to fill the turtle. Use round spirals or squashed ones with pointed ends to fill gaps.

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SCAN ME

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