

SECRET SEA STAR

Shhh...Your Sea Star Can “Regenerate” Its Legs

MATERIALS:

Star Template (see below)
Paper Bowl
Scotch Tape
Scissors
Paint (any color)
Marker (same color as the paint)
2 Googly Eyes (optional)
Craft Glue
20-30 Cheerios or Fruit Loops



DIRECTIONS:

First, work on your bowl.

1. Cut out the star that is drawn on the star template.
2. Turn the paper bowl over and rest its lip on a flat surface. Attach the star to the back side of the bowl using scotch tape. You will be taking the star off soon so don't use too much tape.
3. With a marker or pencil, trace the star onto the bowl. Don't worry if it's not exact!
4. Carefully remove the star that you taped onto the bowl and set it aside. You will need it again later.
5. Cut out the star shape that you traced onto the bowl. It's tricky to do so you might want to ask an adult for help.
6. Paint the bowl. Sea stars come in lots of different colors so choose any color that you like. If you choose a light color you may need to paint the bowl twice.

Next, work on the secret.

7. Find the star that you cut out from the star template and saved in step 4. Color one side of that star using a marker or crayon that is the same color as the paint you used on your bowl.
8. Turn the star over. The side that you colored should be facing down. Fold the points of the star towards its center.
9. After the paint on your bowl has dried, turn the bowl over. The painted side should be facing down touching your table and the unpainted side should be facing up.
10. Place the colored side of your star flat against the unpainted side of the bowl with the star's folded points facing up. The star should be positioned so that if unfolded, the points on your star would line up with the points on the bowl. Tape the star to the bowl.

Finally, put it all together!

11. Flip your bowl over so the painted side is facing up and use craft glue to attach cereal.
12. Optional: Use craft glue to attach two googly eyes.
13. That's it! You're all done.

But wait, what's the secret?

I'm so glad you asked.

Your sea star, just like many species of living starfishes*, can “regenerate” its legs!

Here's how:

Cut off one of the legs on the paper bowl. Be careful not to cut the folded paper inside the bowl. Now, unfold the paper point to reveal a new leg! Surprise!

*Sea Stars are also called Starfish, but since they aren't technically fish, the scientific community refers to them as Sea Stars.