

# GETTING CREATIVE

Activity 5d

**CULTURE 365 - GETTING CREATIVE SERIES**  
Presented in partnership with Dream Brokers

## Drawing a Spirit Turtle with Phyllis Poitras–Jarrett

### WHAT WE ARE MAKING TODAY

Have you ever wanted to learn how to draw animals? Combine simple shapes and follow step-by-step instructions to see how easy it is to create great looking animal drawings. Line drawing is a simple art form but it is a key starting point for emerging artists.

Spirit animals can teach us about ourselves. The animals we connect to, that we may dream about, show us the traits and strengths that we should be honouring in our own lives at certain points of time.

Today, Phyllis Poitras-Jarrett will lead you through the steps to draw a Spirit Turtle.



*How To Draw A Turtle*

#### Supplies Needed:

Sketch book, detailed sample drawing, pencil, pencil sharpener, glue stick and eraser.

### STEP 1

Paste the sample drawing of the turtle in your sketch book. Find the key shapes on the body of the turtle. You will see:

- ◆ An oval for the body
- ◆ A smaller circle or oval for the head
- ◆ A straight line connecting the body to the head
- ◆ Straight lines for the legs
- ◆ A short, straight line for the tail



*How To Draw A Turtle*

### STEP 2

In the blank area next to the sample drawing, draw the shapes of the turtle – the same shape, size and placement as in the sample.

Draw in guide lines for the legs and tail.



*How To Draw A Turtle*



*How To Draw A Turtle*

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** By attempting this activity, you accept responsibility for your actions and indemnify SaskCulture, Sask Lotteries, contracted artists and/or its partners, officers, directors, employees, contractors, agents, volunteers against all claims, actions, suits, demands, losses, expenses, costs or damages of every kind.



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[SaskCulture.ca](#)



### STEP 3

Draw a line around connecting the body to the head. Draw the turtle's neck up to the head circle. Try to make your body outline the same as that in the sample drawing. Draw in the turtle's nose and mouth.



*How To Draw A Turtle*

### TIP:

Nobody draws something perfect the first time. Do not press too hard on your pencil. And, use your eraser to change lines until they look right to you.

### STEP 4

Draw lines to widen the turtle's legs and claws.

Add lines around the legs and feet. Look at the photo and widen the legs and feet. The legs have a little bend. Add in five claws on each foot.



*How To Draw A Turtle*

### STEP 5

Create the turtle's shell around the oval shape. The shell dips up at the back. Add in the tail – it is a small triangle.

Add in the extra body underneath the shell.



*How To Draw A Turtle*

### STEP 6

Erase the extra guidelines that you do not need.



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### STEP 7

Draw in the head details: stripes going up the neck, and an eye.

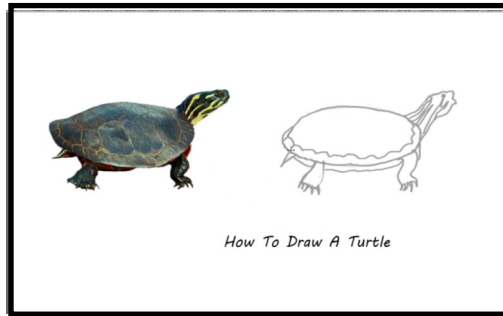


*How To Draw A Turtle*

**Remember: practice makes your drawing much better. Each time you draw your ability to capture a more realistic look will improve.**

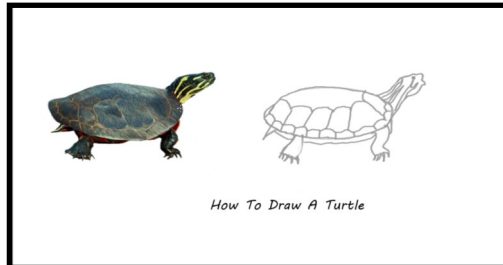
## STEP 8

Draw in shell detail. First, draw a curvy line inside the bottom edge of the shell. In the space between this line and the bottom of the shell, draw small lines vertically.



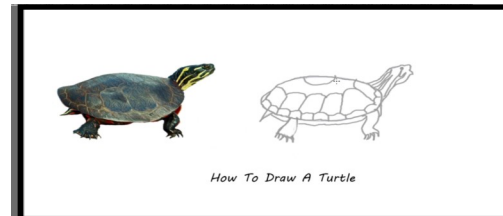
## STEP 9

Next, draw another curvy line halfway up the shell. In the space between this line and the line below, add in more vertical lines.



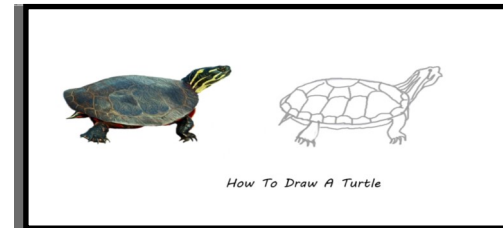
## STEP 10

Finally, draw a half circle at the top of the turtle. In between the circle and the line below, add in more vertical lines.



## STEP 11

Tidy up by erasing any lines you don't need. Your turtle is complete.



## NEXT STEPS

Once you have completed all the drawings, take photos of your completed work and send it to your Dream Broker. The artist would love to see your work, and SaskCulture would love to add it to a showcase of student expression.

## ABOUT THE ARTIST

Phyllis Poitras-Jarrett is a Métis artist from Saskatchewan whose art honours the animals and plants that helped sustain the Métis and the other Indigenous peoples throughout history. A self-taught artist, Poitras-Jarrett is presently focused on mixed media acrylic paintings and textured Métis beadwork. Inspired by her kokum's creativity and determination, she has continued to connect her culture with her art. She has received support from SK Arts in the last few years for her work on spirit animals, as well as from Canada Council for the Arts, to create a short animated video. Visit [www.metisspiritart.ca](http://www.metisspiritart.ca) to find out more.



SaskCulture's work and support reaches lands covered by Treaties 2, 4, 5, 6, 8 and 10, the traditional lands of the Cree, Dakota, Dene, Lakota, Nakota and Saukteaux peoples, as well as the homeland of the Métis.





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