



CREATIVE CRITTERS

create fantastical
artworks using
air dry clay!



This project is brought to you by the PCH Arts Program to positively influence our patients health and wellbeing.

Funded by **Perth Children's Hospital Foundation** as part of the Arts and Health program at the **Child and Adolescent Health Service**

● www.pchf.org.au

The project was delivered in partnership with the **School of Special Educational Needs: Medical and Mental Health** and their teaching staff who support the program

● sensemh.wa.edu.au

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Government of **Western Australia**
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Proudly funded by



School of Special Educational Needs
Medical & Mental Health



CREATIVE CRITTERS

Get ready to create some fantastical critters, a diorama, exquisite animals and write a story about their adventures.

Here's what you'll need to get started on your project:

CRITTER PACK CONTENTS

- 1 x instruction booklet
- 6 x tubs of coloured Air Dry Paper Clay
- 8 x joggle eyes
- 1 x plastic zip lock bag
[to cover any unused clay & unfinished artworks]
- 1 x box to use as a home for your critter
- plastic tools eg. plastic knife, fork, toothpick, chopstick
- marker pen, paper clips, plastic tubing

OPTIONAL EXTRAS

- other tools eg. old toothbrush for texture, skewer stick, knitting needle, chopstick etc.
- sticky tape
- coloured pencils or thin marker pens
- inspirational images



REMEMBER!

Look on the website at pch.health.wa.gov.au/artsprogram or click the QR code for extra resources and inspiration!



Email a photo of your finished your creation to email@health.wa.gov.au to display on our website.



PLANNING YOUR CRITTER

What is air dry clay?

It's a safe clay that may be made of natural, plastic or both materials such as paper, fibre, and glue. It dries without cooking in a kiln [oven] like traditional clay, so is much quicker and easier to use. You can find out more at: zartart.com.au/zartstatic/page/magiclay-exploration

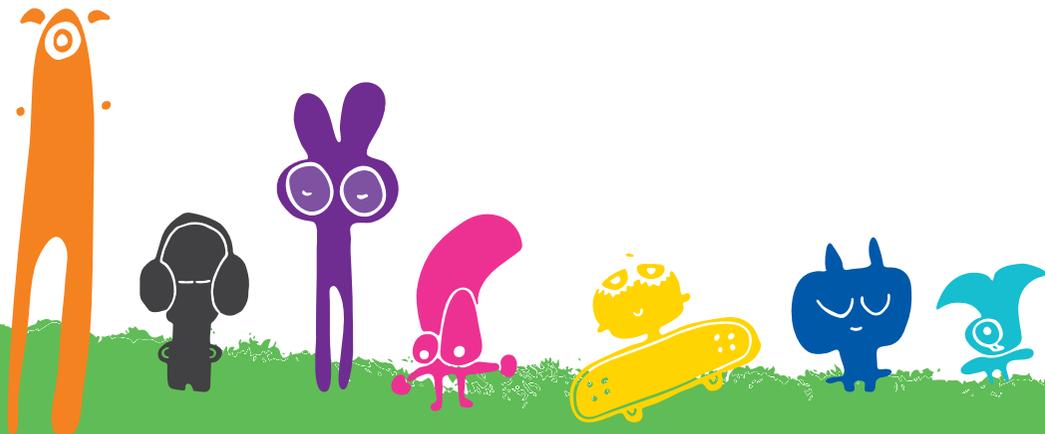
Create a Critter.

Let your imagination run wild and create a person, animal or a unique fantastical creature.

Give your Critter Character.

Think of some characters you know [such as emojis or cartoon characters]. Character describes what it looks like as well as what the being acts like eg. **cheeky**, *happy*, **STRONG**, **LOUD**, *quiet*, *clever*, **SPORTY**, *sleepy*, **WHOOPSY**, **bendy**, maybe **NAUGHTY**, with a soft voice and lives in a cave... whatever you feel like!

What kind of character or personality does it have and what will your critter look like?

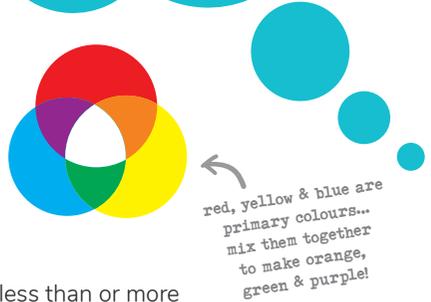




Before you start, flesh out your ideas by thinking about these...

COLOUR

Which colours do you want to use.
You can mix small amounts of colours if you like.



HEAD

How does your critter see the world? Does it have less than or more than two eyes, are they big or small? What kind of mouth and nose/snout does it have? Does it have hair, ears or horns?

BODY

Is your critter just a head or body as well? Does it have legs and arms and what are they shaped like? Does it have other features such as wings, a tail, unusual feet or hands?



TEXTURE

What is your critter like on the outside eg. smooth skin, hairy, fluffy, spongy, balled? What does it feel like?



You may want to think about what your critter does and where it lives? Use a tool to give the surface texture. It can be smooth or have bumps or patterns.

Sketch your ideas on paper.



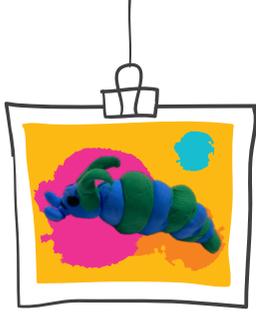
NOW START MAKING!

Shaping the Clay

- Choose one or two **colours** to start with.
- **Squish** the clay with your fingers.
- **Roll** it in a circle between your palms or on the table to make a ball. Roll it back and forth to make a long tube for making a snake, tail or neck.
- Split into smaller pieces for smaller shapes.
- Use your finger tips or some plastic cutlery as tools to mould the clay and to create **textures** by pressing the tool at different edges.
- The clay can be:
 - ~ **Pressed / Squashed**
 - ~ **Rolled**
 - ~ **Cut**
 - ~ **Textured** [with tools]
 - ~ **Mixed**: Mix two colours to get another colour eg. **red + white = pink**
- Make sure you add all the texture now as you won't be able to do this once the air dry clay is dry.
- The clay will dry in about 30 minutes so use small amounts to start with and keep the lid on the tub to keep it fresh. If your clay starts to dry out, use a little bit of water on your finger to make it moist or to stick elements together.
- Keep going until you have a critter you like with just a head or a body as well.
- Add the joggle eyes [press them in] or make your own eyes.
- Let your critter dry overnight [air dry clay doesn't need to be baked].
- If you want to add any extra bits once dry, you will have to wait for the clay to dry in between and then glue them together.



Go online to see cool videos and inspiration on how to make clay shapes: youtu.be/Oka-sK7rqvg



THINGS TO DO WITH YOUR CRITTER



Take a photo of it and send to us to display in the virtual gallery.

Try to put the character against a blank background [like inside the box]. Email your photo to email@health.wa.gov.au and include the name of your character, your first name and age and a special message from your character.

Make a character head for your pencil.

Before your critter dries out insert a pencil in the bottom end and let it dry somewhere overnight.

Make a necklace.

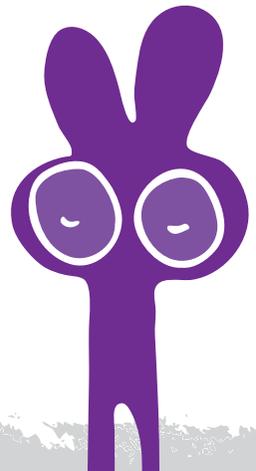
Before your critter dries out, use a paperclip to create a hook to hang it from or to thread your plastic string through.

Write a story or poem about it.

Use the prompts and lined paper at the back of this booklet to help you get started.

Create a home for it.

This is the next part of the activity where you can make a diorama using the box this kit came in.



CREATE A DIORAMA



A diorama is a created scene (model) that can be small or large scale and includes 3D objects.

You can use the box the kit came in to create a home for your critter character.

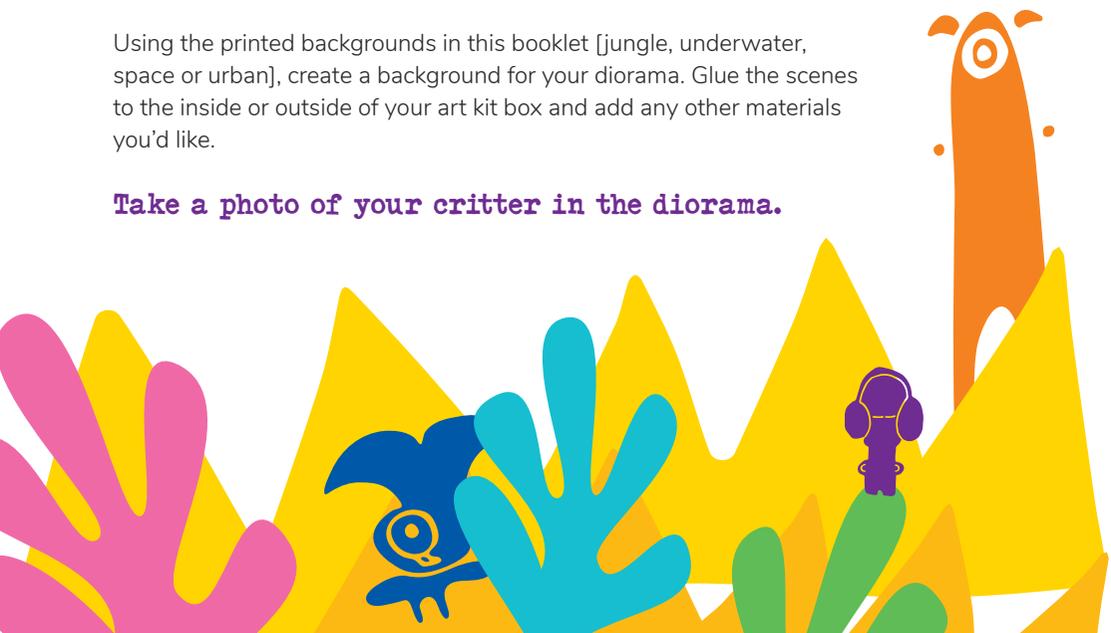
YOU WILL NEED

- Glue
- Scissors
- Marker pens
- Extra materials: pom poms, fabric, collage pics, coloured matchsticks, beads, dried flowers etc. [optional]

Look at your character. What type of place would it live in? Would it be green, snowy, desert, city or some other planet with other features like craters? What does this look like? What is your character doing in this place?

Using the printed backgrounds in this booklet [jungle, underwater, space or urban], create a background for your diorama. Glue the scenes to the inside or outside of your art kit box and add any other materials you'd like.

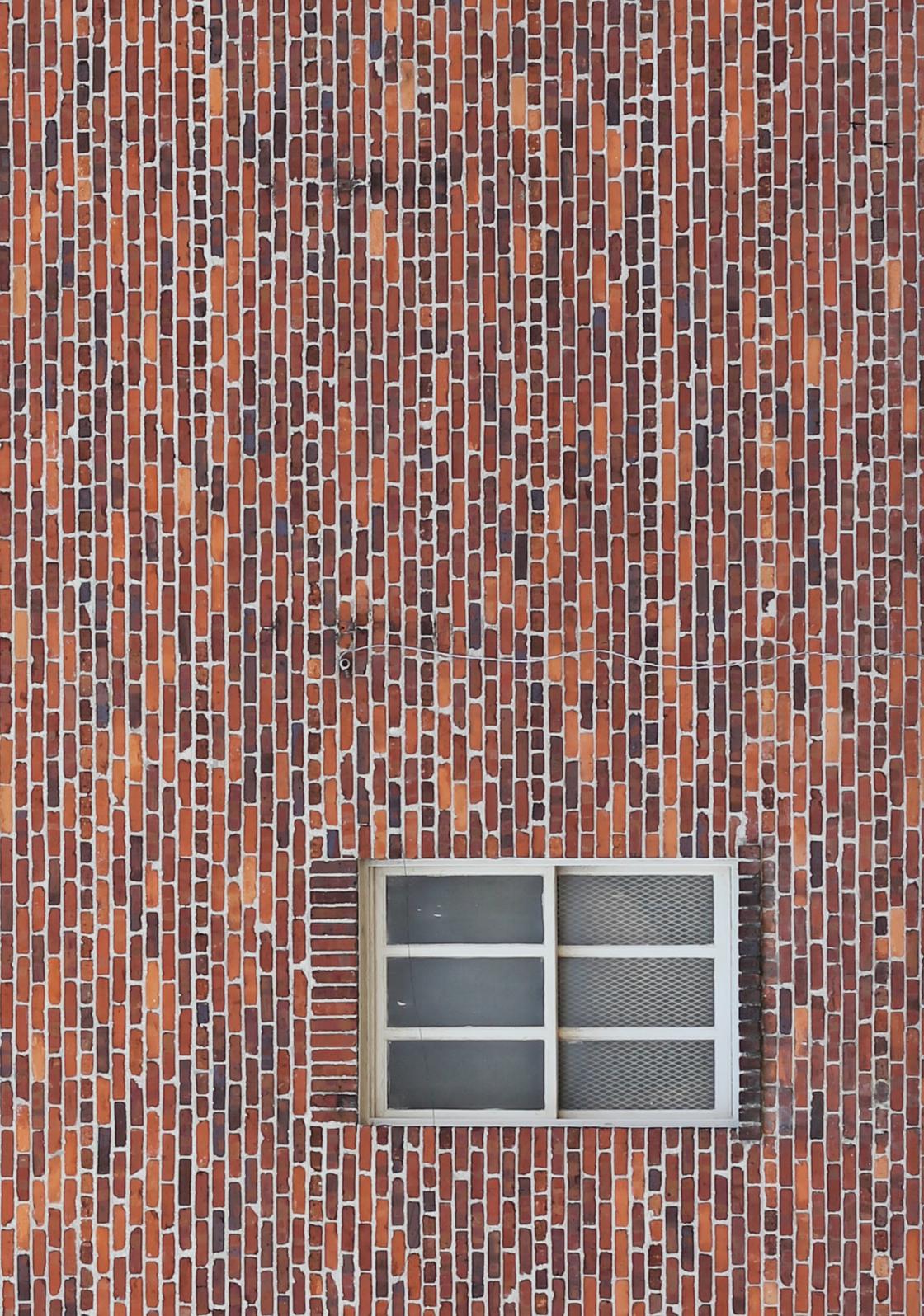
Take a photo of your critter in the diorama.











DRAW YOUR CRITTER



EXQUISITE ANIMAL DRAWING CHALLENGE

Collaborate with friends or family to create a drawing of your own exquisite animal of chance.

This is a collaborative, chance-based drawing game invented by the Surrealist artists in the mid 1920s. Each participant draws or collages an image on part of a sheet of paper, folds the paper to conceal their work, and passes it on to the next player for their contribution.

DIRECTIONS

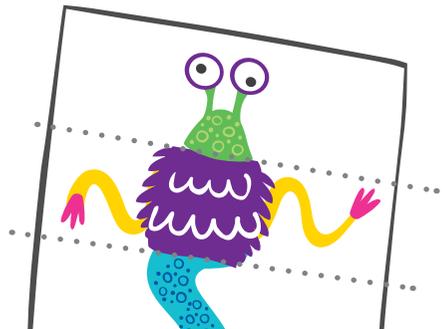
- Take a piece of white paper, and choose something to draw with.
- You can draw [or collage] with anything you want to.
- Fold your paper into thirds vertically. This will divide the three sections for each of the three team players. The boundary of your drawing will be the dotted line in the picture below. Be clear with your team who draws top, middle, and bottom. Do not share any other information about your drawing. Remember not to peak!
- The drawings are going to need a way to connect with each other. So your drawing must enter/exit at the fold marks, so the next player/artist can connect.

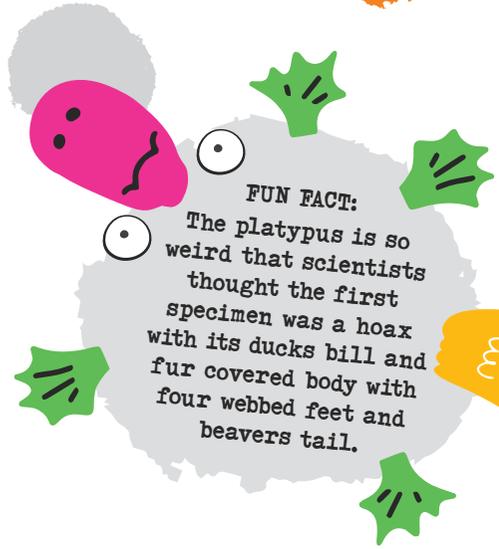
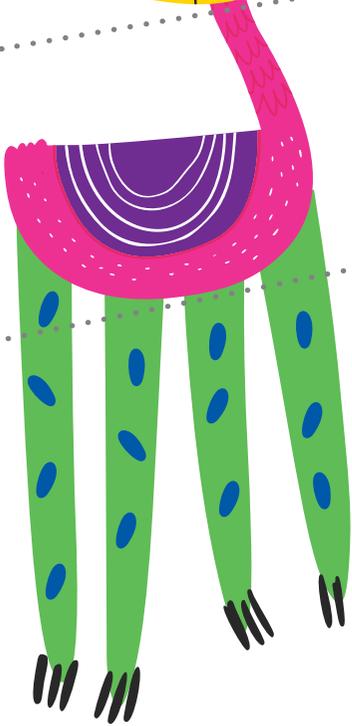


Draw the end of your character part slightly over the dotted line [about 5mm], so the next person knows where to start.

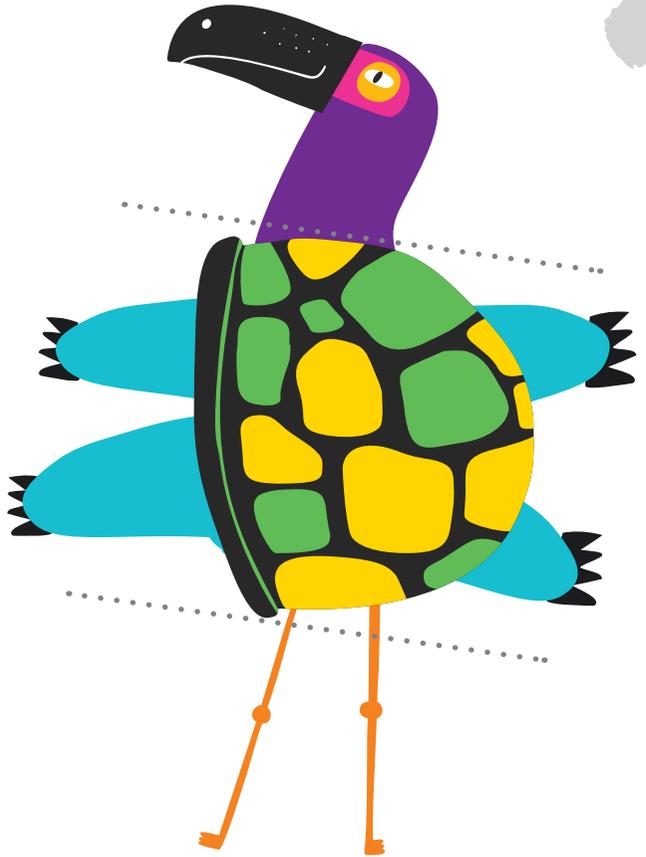
- Once everyone has had a go, unfold and look at the character.
- Bring the image together and finish it off by going over the lines of the entire creature, connecting where it needs connecting and finish colouring in.
- Give the character a name.

Q. WHAT DO YOU CALL
A BABY PLATYPUS?
A. A PUGGLE





FUN FACT:
The platypus is so weird that scientists thought the first specimen was a hoax with its ducks bill and fur covered body with four webbed feet and beavers tail.



WRITE A STORY



Now that you have made your diorama and critter you can bring it to life with a story.

Have a play with your character in its diorama, then use the next two pages in this booklet to write a story about your character called **“A Day in the life of... [your critter name].”**

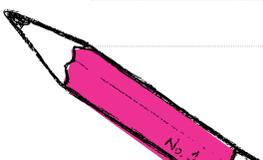
DESCRIBE:

- What your character looks like eg. is it short, giant, round, colours, does it have horns...
- What it does eg. skip, slither, wobble, walk on 6 limbs, eat insects...
- What does its environment look like [describe the diorama you have created] le.g. green, lush, insects that it eats...
- Why does it need this type of environment? What else does your character do?
- Does it have friends or family or other critters?
- When does it sleep?
- What does it eat?

What did you learn about your critter and the importance of where it lives? Could you write a similar story about yourself? What you look like and why? What is your environment? What weather do you like? How do you adapt? What do you do daily and what do you like to do eg. hobbies? Why?



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A DAY IN THE LIFE OF:

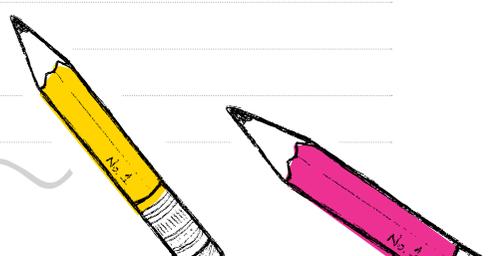


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