Elements: Shape & Pattern
Principles: Rythym
Materials:
- 9” x 12” white construction paper
- Watercolor trays
- Water (in cups/jars, to rinse between paint colors)
- Brushes
- Paper towels
- White, green and brown crayon

Instructions:

1. Show students photographs of sea turtles online by using the SmartBoard. Talk about the proportion of their fins to their head and body.
2. Show the sample of the art the students will be making. Explain that this is a slight profile of a sea turtle, so there will only be one eye showing. The turtle is also “swimming” onto the page through flowing water, so it’s fins will be extending off the page, as well as the back portion of the turtle.

3. Have students name the shapes that make the pattern on the back of the turtle (hexagon).

4. Have students lightly sketch in pencil just the outline of their turtle. Use hand over hand guidance and when needed (your hand guiding their hand).

5. Make very light, evenly sized circles with pencil on the shell area of turtle. These will eventually be turned into hexagons.

6. Use white crayon (or white oil pastel) to outline the outside of turtle, plus the outside of the eye area and the hexagon shape pattern on the shell.

7. Use a bit of green and brown crayon to add some shading to fins and shell.

8. Use watercolors to paint the turtle and water. If students are mixing colors, remind them to use the top of their tray.

9. Once finished with the sea turtles, put names on the back. Then have students wipe the top of their trays out and clean up.

This sea turtle art combines natural shapes and geometric shapes. The use of shapes in repetition creates a pattern. Rhythm is shown by the implied movement of the turtle swimming onto the page and through the flowing water.