



EMBERBROOK  
LEARNING

# Swimming Sea Turtle

An Art & Exploration Activity

This fun ocean-themed craft lets your child create their own swimming sea turtle using simple shapes and textured materials. As your preschooler builds their turtle's flippers and head, they'll strengthen scissor skills, shape recognition, and fine motor control—all while enjoying a creative art moment that ties into their curiosity about the sea.

## What we're Practicing:

**Fine Motor Skills** – Painting, gluing, and placing decorations help develop hand strength and coordination

**Creative Expression** – Choosing colors and decorating the turtle encourages decision-making and personal style

**Color Recognition** – Exploring blue and green helps reinforce basic color concepts

**Spatial Awareness** – Gluing parts in position builds an early sense of placement and shape relationships

## Supplies

---

- Large sheet of white paper
- Green construction paper
- Paper bowl (any size)
- Blue and green paint
- Paintbrushes
- Googly eyes
- Glue
- Scissors (adult use or toddler-safe with help)
- Stickers (sea animals, shapes, stars, flowers, etc.)
- Sequins, gems, or foam shapes
- Turtle body template (provided in the Printables Folder)

## Caregiver Prep

---

**Approximate Prep Time:** 5 – 10 minutes

1. Print and cut out the turtle body template from the Printables Folder (or freehand the parts)
2. For younger children, pre-cut the head, tail, and flippers. For older children practicing scissor skills, trace the pieces onto green construction paper so they can cut them out independently later.
3. Set out all craft supplies on a washable or protected work surface

## Instructions

---

**Activity Duration:** 20 – 30 minutes

Actual playtime can vary based on your toddler's engagement level and interest

### 1. Paint the Ocean Background

Start by painting the large white paper with blue paint to create an ocean backdrop. Use long strokes, swirls, or finger painting—anything goes! Set it aside to dry.

### 2. Cut Out Turtle Parts

Using green construction paper, cut out a head, four flippers, and a tail. Older children can trace and cut the parts themselves using the included template or freehand. For younger children, use the pieces you pre-cut during setup and move to step 3.

### 3. Build the Turtle Base

Flip a paper bowl upside down. Glue the flippers, head, and tail to the underside of the bowl so they peek out like a real turtle. Glue on googly eyes to the head.

### 4. Glue Turtle to the Ocean

Once the background is mostly dry, glue the assembled turtle to the center of the blue-painted paper.

### 5. Paint the Turtle Shell

Let your toddler paint the top of the bowl green to become the turtle's shell. Dab or brush—the more texture the better!

### 6. Decorate the Scene

After the paint dries slightly, your child can decorate the turtle and ocean scene with sea-themed stickers, sequins, foam shapes, or anything sparkly. Let their imagination run wild!

## Modifications by Level

---

### Level 1 (Emerging Learners)

- Use thicker brushes or sponges for easier painting
- Pre-assemble the turtle shell and let your child focus on decorating
- Offer large, easy-to-grasp decorations to minimize frustration

### Level 2 (Developing Learners)

- Encourage child-led assembly of turtle parts with support
- Prompt your child to describe what they're adding to the shell
- Let them pick the placement of each decoration independently

### Level 3 (Advanced Learners)

- Invite your child to cut the pieces from the template themselves
- Add storytelling: "What's your turtle's name? Where is it swimming?"
- Include background elements like fish, coral, or bubbles using more paper

## Bonus Ideas

---

**Ocean Storytime** – Read a book about sea turtles after finishing the craft

**Create a Turtle Family** – Use different bowl sizes to make a parent and baby

**Sensory Shell** – Add textured elements like sandpaper, fabric, or foam to the shell

## Safety Reminders

---

**Scissor Safety** – Always supervise children when using scissors to ensure safe cutting practices

**Small Pieces** – Keep small decorative items out of reach of mouthing children to avoid choking hazards

**Non-Toxic Materials** – Use only non-toxic, washable paint and glue

# Swimming Sea Turtle

*A hands-on sea life project for little learners*

## Overview:

Bring ocean fun to your craft time with this easy and engaging sea turtle activity! This printable includes two template options to help you create your turtle using a paper bowl and cut-out parts. Your preschooler will build fine motor skills while tracing, cutting, and assembling the pieces to form their very own sea turtle.

## How to Use:

### Option 1: Use the Labeled Template (Page 1)

This is ideal if you're using **green construction paper**, which typically can't go through a printer.

1. Print the labeled template on regular paper.
2. Cut out each part: head, tail, and four flippers.
3. Trace each piece onto green construction paper. Let your child help trace if they're ready!
4. Cut out the green turtle parts. Offer child-safe scissors if your child wants to help.
5. Follow the glue tabs (shown on the template) to attach the pieces to a paper bowl turtle shell.

### Option 2: Use the Blank Template (Page 2)

This version is designed to print directly on green cardstock for easier prep.

1. Print the blank template on green cardstock or printer-friendly green paper.
2. Cut out the turtle parts and glue them onto the paper bowl as above.

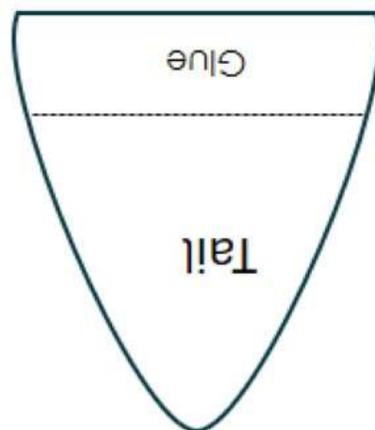
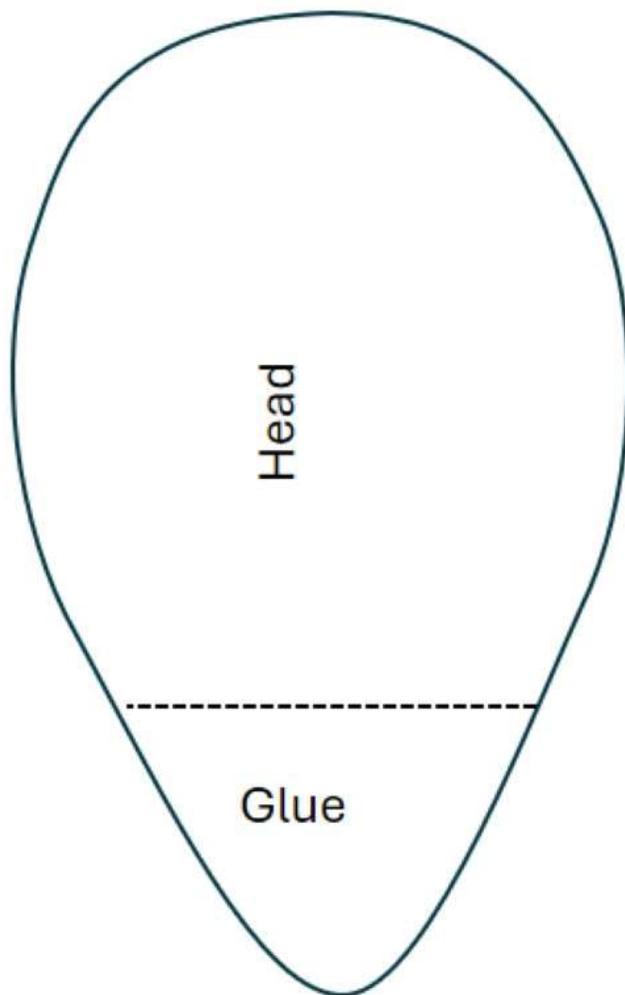
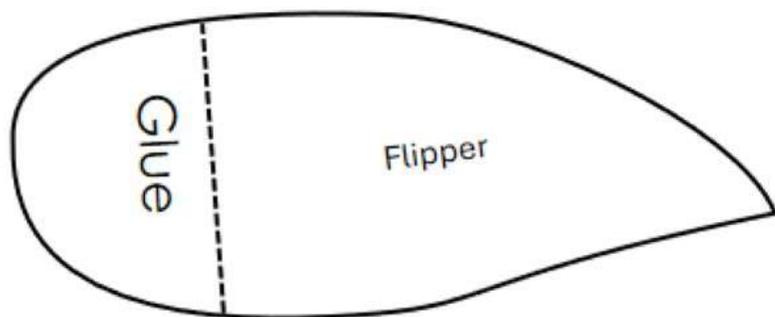
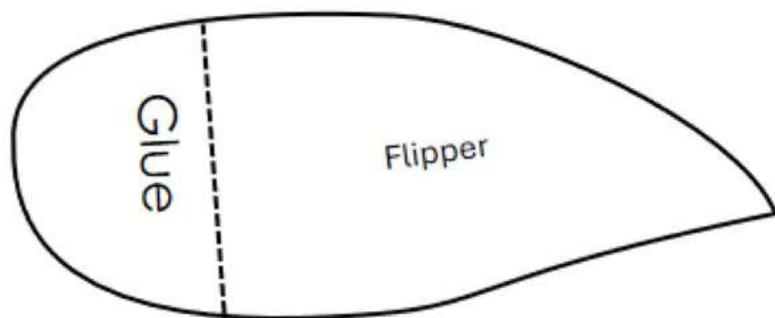
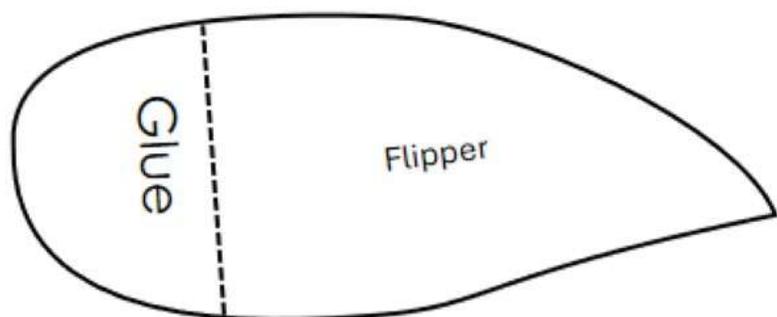
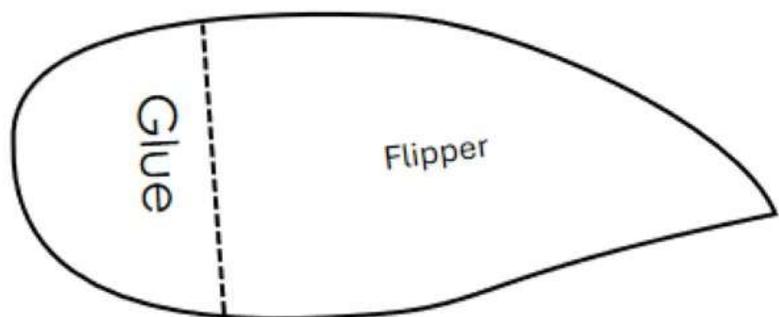
## Tips

- o The turtle pieces have extra length at the base to give space for gluing.
- o Let your child help with tracing or placing pieces, even if they're not ready for cutting.
- o Add googly eyes or draw a smile for extra fun!
- o Want to turn it into a pretend play moment? Give your turtle a name and go on an ocean adventure!

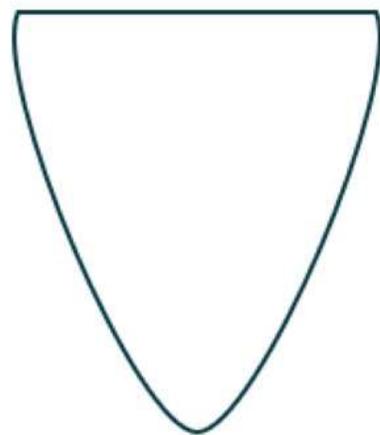
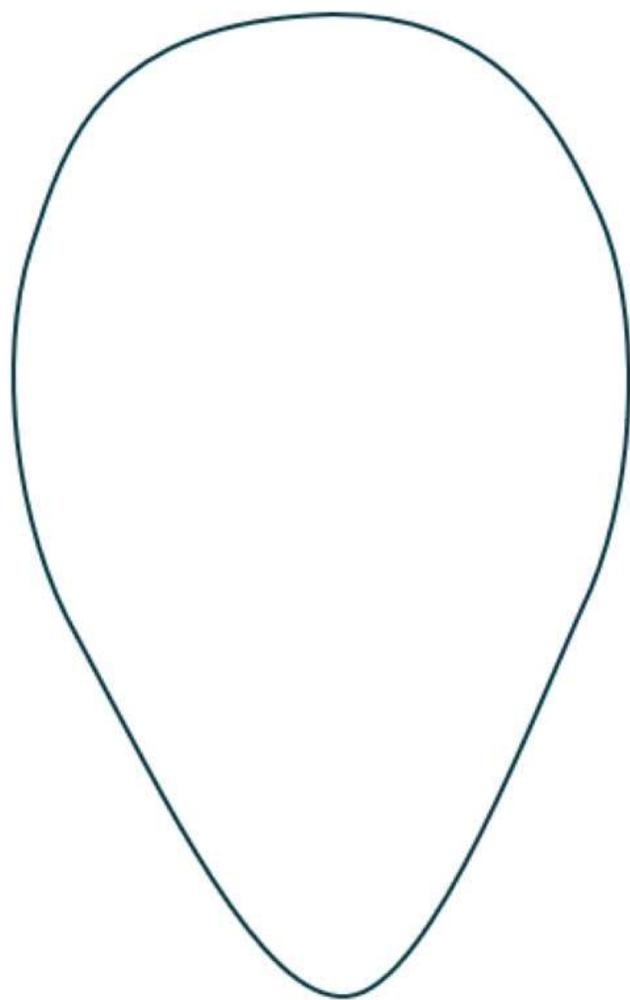
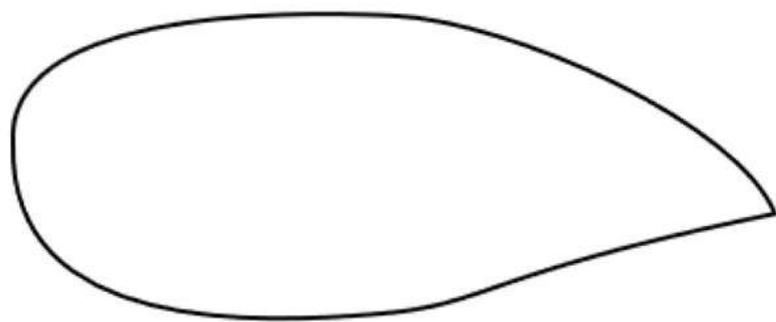
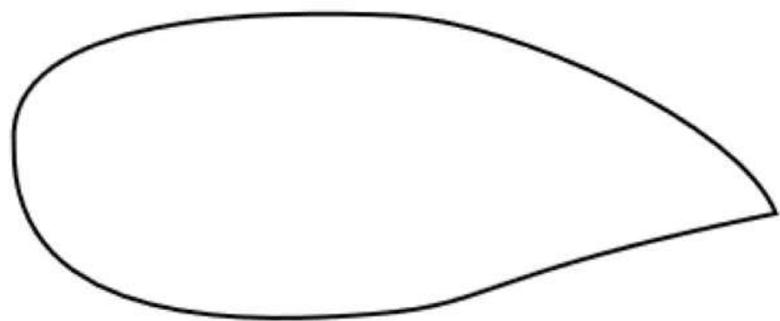
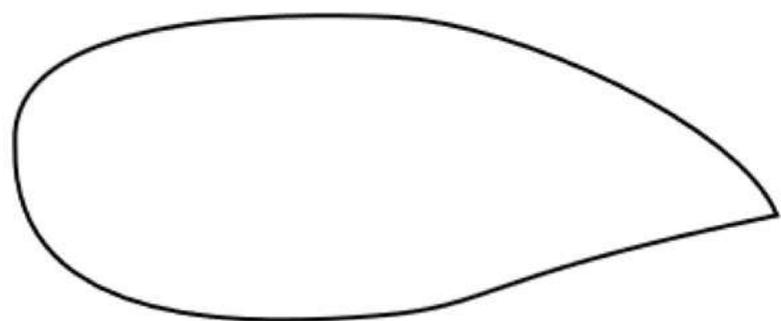
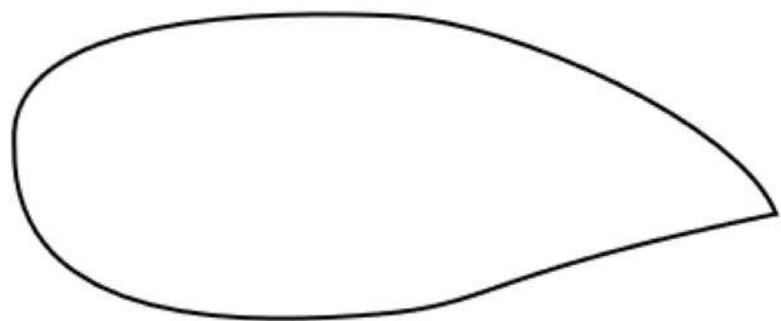
## Terms of Use

This printable is for personal use or single-classroom use only. Redistribution or resale is not permitted.

Use this page if printing on regular paper and tracing onto construction paper.



Use this page if printing directly onto green cardstock.



**Keep the Fun Going  
with a Bonus Activity  
on the next page!**



EMBERBROOK

# T is for Turtle

A fun preschool tracing & coloring activity

Through playful practice, your child will strengthen fine motor skills, learn proper letter formation, and connect letters to familiar words. As they trace and color friendly turtles, they'll build early handwriting confidence and enjoy discovering how learning letters can be both fun and creative.

## What we're Practicing:

- **Letter Recognition** – Identifying uppercase and lowercase T.
- **Fine Motor Skills** – Building pencil control through tracing.
- **Pre-Writing Readiness** – Following lines and shapes with focus and direction.
- **Vocabulary Development** – Connecting T to familiar words (like turtle).

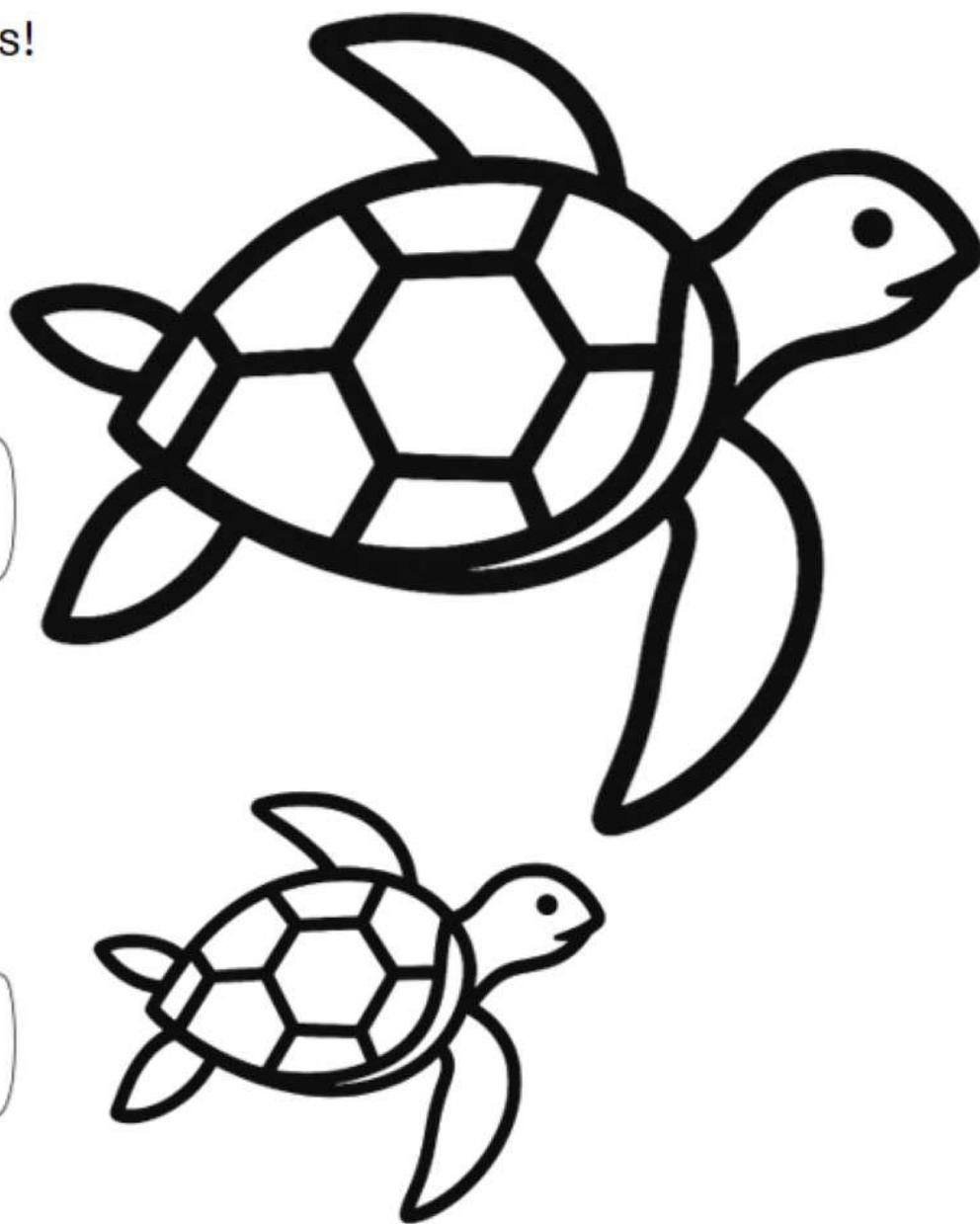
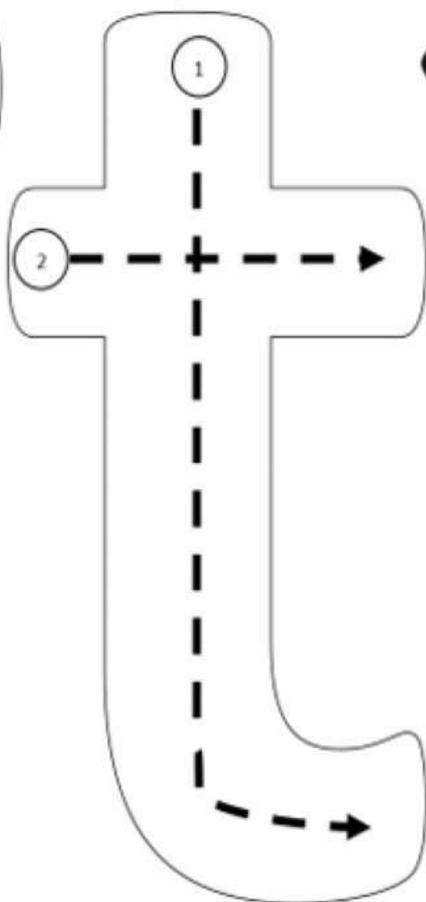
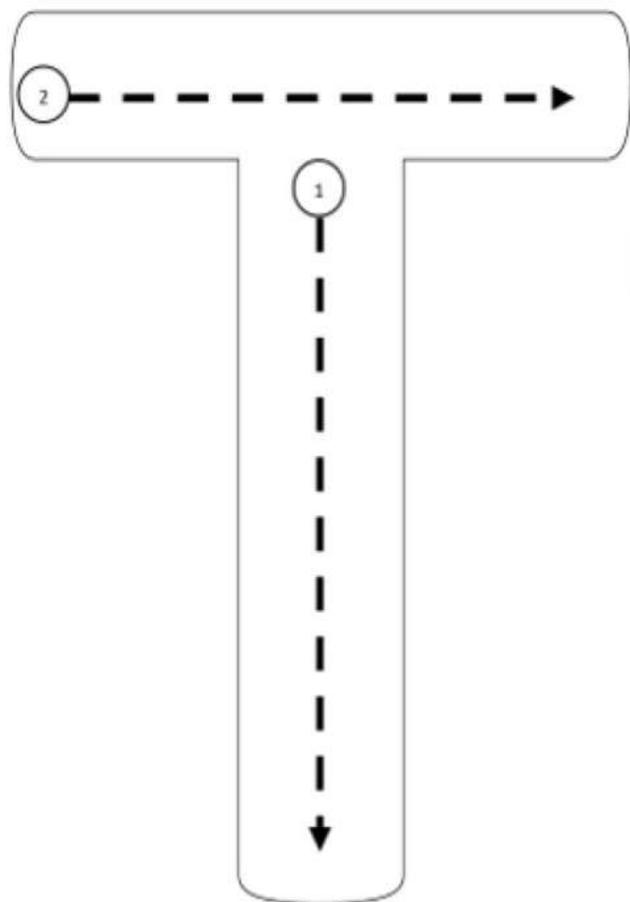
## Terms of Use

This printable is for personal use or single classroom use only. Redistribution or resale is not permitted.

[emberbrooklearning.com](http://emberbrooklearning.com)

# Trace & Color: T is for Turtle

Trace the letters T and t. Then color the turtles!



# Thanks for Joining Us at EmberBrook!

We're so glad you're here! We hope you and your little learner enjoyed this activity.

## Want one more freebie?

We've got a special bonus waiting for you on our Teachers Pay Teachers store—just our way of saying thanks!

## Grab your bonus free printable here:

<https://www.teacherspayteachers.com/store/emberbrook-learning>

---

## Keep Exploring

Discover themed activity packs, preschool printables, and homeschooling inspiration - all designed with your child's growth in mind.

Browse our collection at:  
[emberbrooklearning.com](https://emberbrooklearning.com)

---

## Let's Stay in Touch!

Follow us for daily tips, activity previews, and behind-the-scenes fun:

- o Instagram: @emberbrooklearning
- o Pinterest: @emberbrooklearning
- o Facebook: EmberBrook
- o X (formerly Twitter): @HelloEmberBrook
- o YouTube: @EmberBrookLearning



EMBERBROOK  
LEARNING