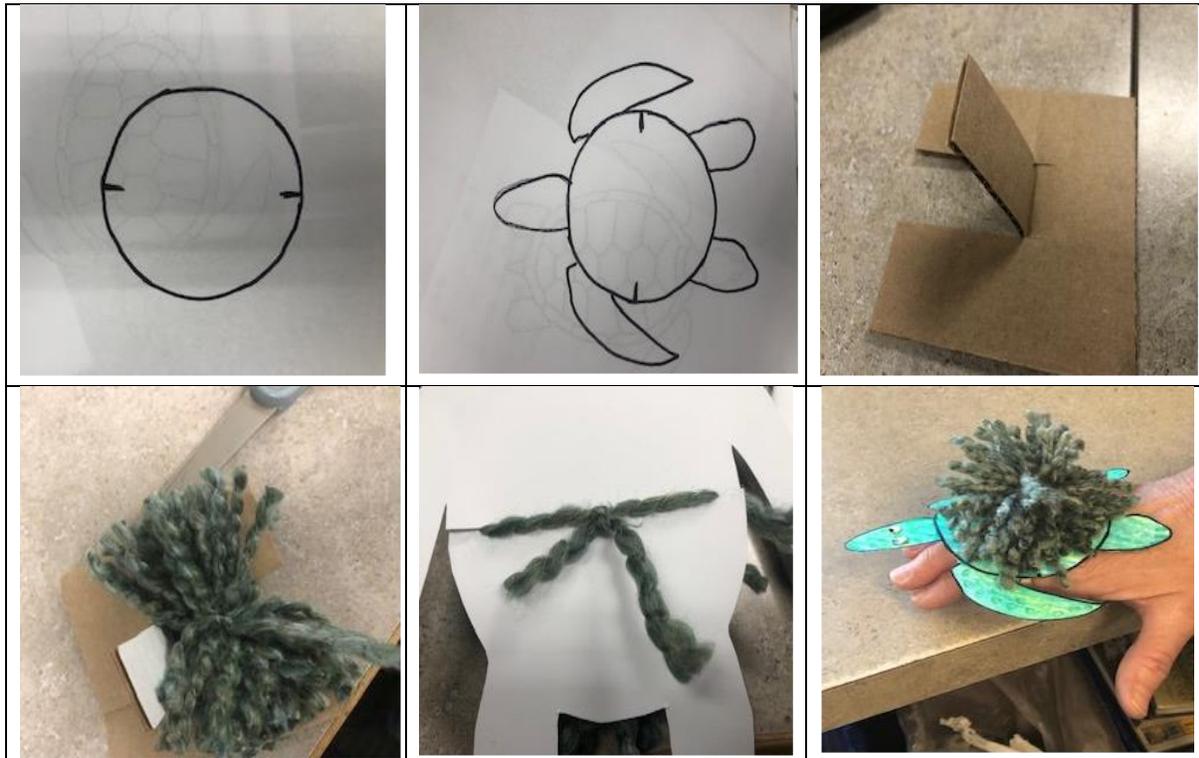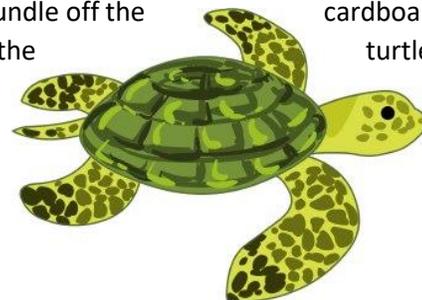This is Ms. Susan from the Shorewood Public Library. This week we will have another "Oceans of Possibilities" sea creature art activity. The sea turtle has lived in the oceans for millions of years, but today there are only a few thousand left living in small areas of the world. The green sea turtle can stay under water for up to five hours with nine minutes between each heartbeat. Now that's stamina! They can see very well underwater, swimming up to 22 mph, but on land can only see things very close-up. The largest species of sea turtle is called, Leatherback, and can reach up to 9 feet long and 5 feet wide. The sea turtle is an amazing creature. Let's make a sea turtle to add to our ocean collection. The sea turtle is not able to pull its head inside the shell, leaving it at greater risk from predators. What is something we could do to help sea turtles survive?

1-For the body of the turtle, start with a circle. You can trace the circle on cardboard or heavy paper. Add two swimming fins on either side of the body that are shaped like a banana and help the turtle move smoothly through the water. Add a head on the top and two back fins on the bottom. These hind fins are shaped like paddles and work as rudders to direct the turtle. Color your turtle and add two eyes.

2-Cut a flap in a square of cardboard. Wrap yarn or string around the whole square. Go around and around the middle, over the open area many times to make a pom-pom. Tie a piece of the string around the middle of the yarn where the opening is in the cardboard. Make the knot as tight as possible. Cut open the ends of the yarn on both sides and slip the whole bundle off the cardboard. Fluff it up to make the turtle shell. Wrap the yarn tie ends around the turtle body and tie a knot on the back side. You can staple a rubber band on the back side of the body to make a swimming turtle puppet.

Hope your summer is going swimmingly!

Ms. Susan