

Mushroom Munchers by Laura K. Zimmermann

The mushroom munchers all **start** the same way. Take a clothespin and paint what will be the top and bottom of the mouth whatever color(s) you choose.



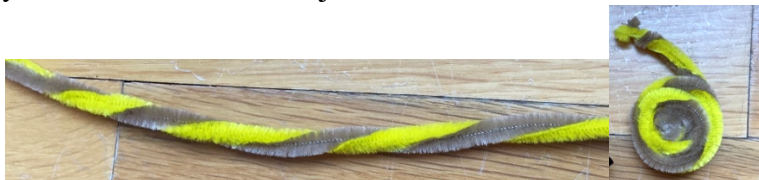
For a **simple larvae** create 2 spring-shaped pipe cleaners by wrapping the them around your finger. Put one of them under the back of the mouth on the bottom, then connect it to the second one on the other side by twisting them together. The complete version pictured here has a pipe cleaner face (described below). When I work with younger children, we create larvae using markers for the head and 2 spring-shaped pipe cleaners. The only rule is that the mouth has to open.



To create a **pipe cleaner face**, start by wrapping a pipe cleaner around what will be the top of the head and keep wrapping to the end, folding the pipe cleaner at the very front edge to cover the clothespin.



For box turtles and snails set the clothespin aside and twist 2 to 3 pipe cleaners together—for turtle shells I use 2 pipe cleaners, for snails I use 3. In either case roll the twisted pipe cleaners into a circle leaving a bit at the end to wrap around the back of the mouth on the top half and attach it to the shell on the other side. You may have to fiddle some with the shell after you do this to get it how you want it. For the snail shell you will attach it so it stands up on its side...if you want a 2-sided snail just make a second snail shell.



Once you have done this:

For the **turtle** color/paint a tail and add pipe cleaner feet (eyes optional). I put one pipe cleaner piece through the circle hinge and the other toward the back of the mouth.

For the **snail** just add a colored/painted foot on the bottom part of the clothespin.



Your creation is now ready to munch!

