

Paint an Oyster

Use a coffee filter and watercolors to create your own unique oyster.

Super-filters in a shell! Did you know that oysters help keep waterways clean and healthy? A single oyster filters up to 50 gallons of water each day by pumping water through its gills when it eats.

Materials

Round coffee filter
Watercolors
Paintbrush
Tissue paper or foil
Glue
Tape



Instructions

1. Brush or drip watercolors onto the coffee filter. Notice how the colors blend.
2. Allow your coffee filter to dry, and fold it in half—this is your oyster shell!
3. Roll a small piece of tissue paper or foil into a ball to form the oyster pearl.
4. Glue the oyster pearl inside the center of your oyster shell.



Go Further

New York's waterways used to be home to millions of oysters, and Billion Oyster Project (BOP) is bringing them back by creating new reefs in New York's harbor.

Go to billionoysterproject.org and find a waterway near you where the oysters are returning!

Share a photo of your oyster! Tag us on Instagram @bcmkids #bcmandyou

