

## Seaside Crafts at Home! Create Your Own Bat Star (*Patiria miniata*)

### Materials:

- Two paper plates
- [Bat star printable template](#)
- Scissors
- Sandwich bag
- Clear tape
- Crayons
- Markers
- One or more Legos

**Step 1:** Stack two paper plates and trace the bat star template (available [here](#)).

**Step 2:** Keeping the two paper plates stacked together, cut out the bat star. You will now have two paper plates shaped like a bat star.

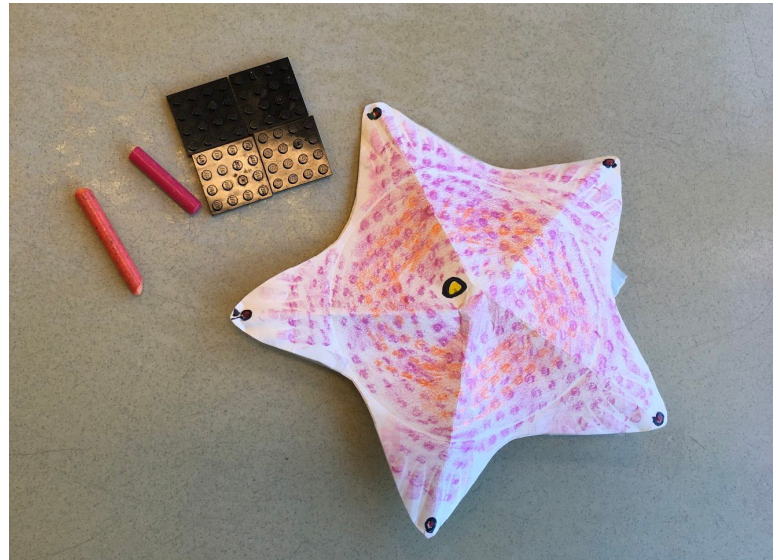
**Step 3:** Choose one plate to be the top side (called the aboral side) of the bat star. On the bottom of the plate, draw a **madreporite** near the middle of the star,



off center, and color it yellow. A **madreporite** is a filter plate where seawater enters the sea star. The water moving through the sea star is what powers its ability to move around.

**Step 4:** Draw an **eyespot** on the tip of each arm and color them red. An **eyespot** is a bat star's eyes! Bat stars can't see colors and shapes like humans and many other animals can, but they can detect light and dark.

**Step 5:** Place a lego under the plate. Rub the side of a crayon over the plate to capture the lego pattern underneath. This represents the pattern created by the hard **ossicles**. Cover the entire plate with **ossicles**. To the touch, bat stars feel very rough, like sandpaper, because just beneath the skin of the bat star are flat, crescent-shaped plates called **ossicles**. Ossicles help protect sea stars and make them more rigid.



**Step 6:** Restack and align the paper plates. Gently crease a ridge that extends from the tip of each arm to the center of the plate. This will make the bat star 3-D.

