The totem pole, also sometimes referred to as a monumental pole, is a unique, hand-carved monument created by Indigenous peoples of the Northwest Coast of North America to variously portray family legends and lineage, spirituality, sacred or mythological beings, and culturally important animals, people or events.

Take your time reading through the meanings of animals in the Native American culture here: Native American Totem Animals & Their Meanings

Choose the animals you would like to portray on your totem pole that have a meaning to you and your family. You can choose to draw on paper, cut around it and glue it to the pole or make your art onto the pole itself.

You can make it in different sizes and use different materials to complete this craft like: paper rolls (toilet paper or paper towels) or any round pots (from chips, yogurt, soda cans, etc), glue,
scissors, tape, paper and a medium to color it with (markers, colored pencils, pastels, paint).

Choose what materials you have available and think on how you are going to draw each animal to look like they are standing one on top of the other. Think about simple shapes to simplify the animal’s features.

Tips:

*Tape rolls/cans/pots together if you want a taller pole.

*Add extra features, like a beak, ears and wings.

* Sketch with a pencil before coloring. Sketch is the planning of your drawing.

* Try your best and have fun! 😃

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Renata Rodrigues is a Teaching Artist with Center for Creative Education in West Palm Beach, Florida.

Submit a photo of your finished work to Center for Creative Education via email, info@cceflorida.org, with your first name, age, and city or town in which you live, for a chance to have your work showcased on our website or social media pages!

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