

Little learners get hands on, minds on at Tinkering for Tots, a program designed for curious preschoolers to develop an innovative mindset and make connections through storytelling, play, artifact exploration and a take-home STEAM activity kit.

What connections are we making?

Highlighted Habit



STAY CURIOUS

Description: Keep asking questions such as how and why, ask how you can help solve a problem, what is a new way to do something?

Story

Title: *The Girl With Big, Big Questions*

Author: Britney Winn Lee

Why we picked this book: We hope to encourage our little learners to ask questions, understanding that asking questions is how we learn and grow and solve problems. Even if our questions sometimes make others uncomfortable, we still need to stay curious.

Artifact Spotlight

Name: The Warrior

Location: Driving America

To learn more about the story behind this artifact, please see the artifact spotlight on Page 2.

Open Exploration

Description: Staying curious while exploring with tree stacking toys.

Skills your young learner is practicing: Curiosity, collaboration, trying a new way.

Questions to Ask Your Young Learner

Why do we have hearts that can feel hurt, upset, and afraid? Why is it good to be curious? How did the builder of the Warrior (McKinley Thompson) show his curiosity? Who did he want to help? What can the Warrior do that is different from a regular car?

Take-Home Activity

Title: Clay Birds

Materials:

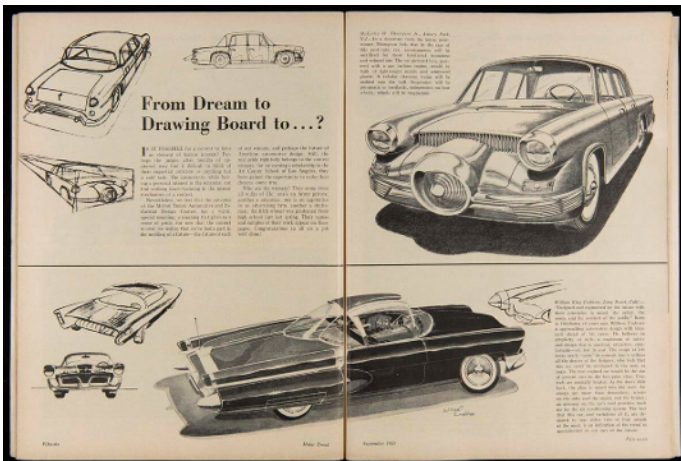
- Clay
- Feathers
- Googly eyes
- Foam triangle
- Pipe cleaners

Artifact Spotlight



The Warrior: McKinley Thompson decided when he was 12 that he wanted to be an automobile designer. But he was an adult when *Motor Trend* magazine sponsored a design contest hoping to discover new talent. Thompson won one of five, four-year tuition-free scholarships to the prestigious Art Center School of Design in Los Angeles. His winning entry appeared in the article, "From Dream to Drawing Board to...?" in *Motor Trend* in September 1953.

Thompson defined the need for an all-terrain vehicle, able to cross rivers and small inland lakes, that would be easy to build and maintain with low production costs. He named his car the Warrior.



After graduation, Thompson was offered a job with Ford Motor Company in the Advanced Styling Studio, where designers were given lots of creative freedom. This fit Thompson's interest in futuristic themes, allowing him to contribute sketches for fantastic ideas. One was a flying car, but his most innovative idea had the potential to change the world. He believed an affordable, reliable vehicle would stimulate the economies of countries in Africa.

The Warrior project was ahead of its time in design and goals. The plan was to use plastic parts (unusual at that time) because they were lightweight, durable, and relatively cost-efficient. He and some friends produced a prototype car and could demonstrate the possibilities of this unique vehicle. While every potential investor he approached told him it was a good idea, he was unable to raise the funding needed to pursue his idea, so he shut down the project in 1979.

Take-Home Activity

Clay Bird Materials:

- Clay
- Feathers
- Googly eyes
- Foam triangle
- Pipe cleaners

Directions:

- 1.** Mold a head and body for your bird out of clay, and stick them together,
- 2.** Stick the googly eyes and foam beak into the bird's head.
- 3.** Use feathers to give your bird wings and tail feathers.
- 5.** Stick the pipe cleaners to the bottom of your bird to give it feet.

Coloring Sheet

