

Animal Habitat Diorama Project



Due Monday, December 5th, 2016

For our first science project you will be comparing and contrasting the needs, adaptations and habitats of different animals. A **habitat** is the natural environment in which an animal usually lives (butterfly fish in the ocean, black bear in the forest, rattlesnake in the desert, etc.). **Adaptations** are special characteristics that animals have developed in order to survive in their habitats.

You will study the animal you chose in class, by and using information from reference books and the Internet. Using those resources you will research and learn more about your animal's **natural habitat** and its **adaptations**. After you've finished your research, you will need to create a diorama of your animal's habitat.

A **diorama** is like a stage set made from a cardboard box with no lid (shoeboxes work great). To create a diorama, you turn the box on its long side and cover the background (bottom of the box) with painted or colored scenery. Then, you place figures and objects in front of the background like characters and props on a stage.

Please note: Animals must be real, wild, and cannot be extinct. The habitat must also be NATURAL (no houses, cages, aquariums, zoos, etc.).

What you need:

- Cardboard box (or shoebox) without lid
- Suggestions for decoration: A variety of art and craft supplies, including paint, colored pencils and markers, crayons, colored crepe paper, colored construction paper, colored modeling clay, pipe cleaners, animal print or furry fabric swatches. A collection of natural objects, such as small rocks, leaves, grass, moss, pine needles, and twigs.
- scissors & glue

What to do:

1. First, add background scenery to the bottom of the box. Then, stand the diorama up on its side before adding the figures and objects. You may use cut out pictures of animal figures and objects, or build them from clay and other materials. Be creative, using any materials available to craft your animals (Ex: pine needles for antennae, pipe cleaners for legs, tiny rocks for eyes, etc.) If possible, add natural or crafted objects to your habitat to make it look realistic. Glue the objects to the box so they won't fall when the diorama is carried.
2. Dioramas will be presented in class. Complete the attached presentation form about your animal and its habitat. You will share this information with the rest of the class when you explain your diorama.

This project is worth 25 points. In order to receive full credit, you must complete the diorama and the presentation form. Points will be deducted for late projects.

Good luck with your research, and have fun! 😊

Project adapted from the teacher blog of Mrs. Sarah McBride
<http://teacherpress.ocps.net/sarahmcbride/animal-habitat-diorama-project/>