

Creative Families @ Home



Scene in a Box



What is a diorama (scene in a box)?

The word diorama can either refer to a 19th-century mobile theatre device, or, in modern usage, a three-dimensional full-size or miniature model, sometimes enclosed in a glass showcase for a museum.

A diorama is often used as a learning tool to help show a student's understanding of a certain subject matter.

What you will need to make a scene in a box.

A shoe box or a box of a similar size
Scissors
Glue
General craft resources e.g. coloured paper.

1. Choose a theme for your diorama. You could create a scene from a book, a historical time period or a scene from nature for example.
2. Once you've chosen a theme, you will need to do some research to make your diorama as lifelike as possible.
3. Select a box. Because dioramas have layers of background, they should be made in a box that is quite deep. The box must have an open-faced front so that you can see the scene.
4. Create your background first. Begin at the back of the container and work your way forward, adding layers of details and images to create depth in your scene.
5. Build up the ground or landscape. A realistic diorama should include details on the bottom of the box as well. You can use a variety of resources e.g. pictures, paint, modelling clay.
6. Add details to make the scene realistic. Work from the back of the box toward the front, and place smaller items in front of larger ones. Space your items out from the top of the box to the bottom to make it visually appealing. Lay everything out, but wait to glue it down until you are sure things are where you want them.
7. Complete your scene with the addition of miniature figurines, furniture, or models. Make sure that these items are to scale with the rest of the scene. Alternatively print and cut out simple photos of figures or furniture and place them throughout the scene.

Please supervise children at all times with scissors.