

YOUR ECOSYSTEM DIORAMA

I. How should I begin

- A. First, pick an ecosystem to represent: pond, forest, grassland, etc.
- B. Next, pick how others are going to view your diorama, from the side (preferred) or top.
- C. Third prepare the background habitat (use any materials you choose i.e. cotton clouds, cut paper trees, painted ponds).
- D. Fourth, set up your community (plants, animals, etc.).
- E. Finally, put the finishing touches by decorating the outside, explaining your diorama in a written report, etc. Make it great!

II. What should I include?

- A. Make sure you represent the non-living things, habitat, (air, water, soil, sun).
- B. Include the community of living things, plants, animals, fungi, and microbes.
- C. Show the ways living things relate. Use these relationships - predator/prey; producer/consumer; scavenger/carrion; parasite/host; symbiote/symbiote.
- D. Finishing touches are great, like covering your box with colored paper, etc.

III. What should I use?

- A. Use a large shoebox or small regular box as a container.
- B. Any medium for your figures is fine. Some examples are: cut out pictures, toys, hand-made things, or drawings.

C. You may glue, tape, stick them in clay, etc. Just make sure that they are firmly attached.

IV. How will my diorama be graded?

A. Part of your grade will be on whether you have an accurate (correct) habitat and community. (i.e. no sharks swimming in ponds! No lions in a pine forest!)

B. Part of your grade will be on how nicely you put your diorama together.

C. A **large** part of your grade will depend on you being able to **explain** your ecosystem to others.

P.S. I will be looking for originality, too!