

ECOSYSTEM DIORAMAS:

Suggestions

Use your
creativity

FORESTS

Materials: Shoe box, coconut, green food coloring, construction paper, soil, modeling clay, popsicle sticks, pebbles or gravel, cotton balls, Christmas garland or pine tree branch (if available), craft store foliage, rocks

Directions:

Step 1: Cut out one long side of a shoe box.

Step 2: Cut out and glue pieces of light blue construction paper that fit the three remaining sides of the shoe box for the horizon. Glue the lid to the bottom for an edge.

Step 3: Decorate the horizon. With different colors of construction paper, draw and cut out tall mountains, the sun, and some birds. Glue them on the horizon. Add cotton balls for clouds. (Adding any texture makes your diorama stand out.)

Due: November 22nd



FORESTS

Step 4: Next, build the ground area. With modeling clay, build some elevating hills. Cover with potting soil and gravel. Add rocks.

Step 5: Add green food coloring to some shredded coconut in a baggie and shake until it looks like grass. Add some coconut grass on top of the soil.

Step 6: Make different types of trees (deciduous and coniferous.) You can apply drawn and cut out trees to popsicle sticks. Stick the opposite end with a ball of clay and stick on the floor of the shoe box. Here is one idea for making evergreen trees:

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/arborday/papertree/> . Use small foliage from a craft store.

Step 7: Last, add animals from the clip art attached, plastic toy animals, or from clay. If students use the clip art animals, they can color the pictures and glue a small piece of paper for a tab to glue somewhere on the ground of the shoe box.

Step 8: Somewhere in the box (with the plant or animal) or on the outside of the box make a list of which plants and animals are shown.

Step 9: You can paint the outside of the box. Attach a sign designating MOUNTAIN/ FOREST and your name.



