

# ECOSYSTEM DIORAMAS:

## DESERTS

Suggestions

**Materials:** Shoe box, construction paper, sand, modeling clay, pebbles or gravel, salt, small broken pasta pieces or dried lentils, toothpicks, craft sticks, sagebrush, pipe cleaners

Use your Creativity

### Directions:

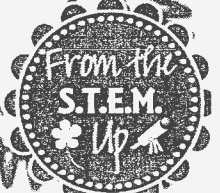
Step 1: Cut out one long side of a shoe box.

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 in orange, yellow, some red, or light blue. With red, orange, and brown construction paper, draw and cut out buttes, canyons, cliffs, and arches for the background OR make out of modeling clay. With different colors of construction paper, draw and cut out green cacti, the sun, yucca plants, sagebrush, mesquite trees, or Joshua trees. Glue them on the horizon. Add birds in the sky.

Consider collecting actual sagebrush and glue small pieces into the box.

Due November 22nd



# DESERTS

Step 4: Next, build the ground area. With modeling clay, build some buttes or arches. Cover the ground with sand, salt, pebbles, oatmeal, lentils, or even crushed pasta pieces.

Step 5: If you make cacti out of green modeling clay, break off small pieces of toothpicks and stick into the clay for the needles.

Step 6: 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. Students can also glue the picture on one end of a popsicle stick while the opposite end sticks to the box via clay. For spiders and scorpions, you can twist pieces of pipe cleaners together.

Step 7: Somewhere on outside of the box (with the plant or animal) make a list of which plants and animals are shown.

Step 8: Feel free to paint the outside of your box! Attach a sign designating DESERT and your name.



