

ECOSYSTEM DIORAMAS:

WETLANDS

Materials: Shoe box, coconut, green food coloring, construction paper, soil, modeling clay, mini bamboo skewers or toothpicks, chocolate covered raisins, gummy fish, gummy worms, pebbles/ gravel, cotton balls

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 hills, the sun, and some migratory birds. Glue them on the horizon. Glue a few cotton balls on the horizon for clouds.

Step 4: Next, build the ground of the wetland. Cut out some large and small curvy pieces of dark blue paper for the water. Glue on the bottom of the shoe box. Around the water area add potted soil and gravel to cover the floor.



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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: Glue some gummy fish on top of the water and gummy worms for snakes.

Step 7: To make cattails, stick a chocolate covered raisin on one end of a mini bamboo skewer or toothpick. On the opposite end of the skewer, put a small ball of clay to stick on the shoe box.

Step 8: 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 or on a craft stick.

Step 9: Consider building a beaver dam or other details.

Step 10: 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. Paint the outside of the box if desired. Attach a sign designating WETLAND and your name.



