



How to Make a Diorama

Instructions

Read and follow the instructions below to help guide you in making a diorama of your assigned section of the Potomac River.

1. First, decide on what scene you will make. The scene you select needs to show what the region looks like, including its **physiographic** features.
2. Pick a box to use for your diorama. The box needs to be large enough to accommodate the scene you selected, but small enough so that you don't have excess space. If you use a shoe box that has a lid, you can increase available space by laying the lid down to create a tray, then placing the box on its side inside the lid.
3. Plan what objects you will have inside your diorama and how you will place them by sketching it before you begin. Remember to place larger items in the back and smaller items in the front so that everything is visible.
4. Collect the materials you will need to create your diorama, such as paint, paper, clay, glue, small figurines, or materials from outside, such as moss, sticks, or stones. Be sure to include your region of river from the "**Natural Boundaries** of the Potomac River **Watershed** Map" in the diorama.
5. Begin to decorate your box. You will want to decorate the background of your diorama first, and work from the back of the box to the front. You can use clay, glue, or other sticky materials to hold your objects in place. If you want something to look like it is floating or flying, use fishing line to hang objects from the top of the box.
6. If you do not have figurines or other materials, you can draw objects on paper, cut them out, and attach them to the bottom of the box. To do this, cut a small rectangular piece of paper, fold it in half, and glue one part of the rectangle to the paper object and the other part of the rectangle to the box.

Remember, the diorama needs to show what your river region looks like, and should reference the region's natural, political, and social history.

References:

- eHow Education Editor. "How to make a diorama." eHow, Inc. http://www.ehow.com/how_12761_make-diorama.html.
- Rohrer, Ken and Judy Decker. "Incredible art lessons; Easy Dioramas," [incredibleart.org. http://www.princetonol.com/groups/iad/lessons/elem/elem28.html](http://www.princetonol.com/groups/iad/lessons/elem/elem28.html).