**DIORAMA PROJECT INSTRUCTIONS**

**DIRECTIONS**

**Possible Supplies**  
Shoe box or slightly larger box  
Construction paper on which to design background scene  
Scissors  
Markers and/or crayons  
Figures to recreate the scene  
Tape  
Thread   
Paste

***Diorama: “****a**life-size, three-dimensional scene from nature or history”*

**HOW TO MAKE A DIORAMA**

1. **Find a box** at least as big as a shoe box - a slightly larger box works even better. Cover the outside of the box with construction paper.
2. **Decide on a scale**. This is key, because a diorama becomes believable to the extent that it looks "real." If you've got a focus (a Barbie doll, a particular plastic dinosaur), use that scale.
3. **Collect your materials** - human and/or animal figures, palm trees or sugar cubes to build an igloo, dollhouse furniture and miniature foods for an interior scene.
4. **Decide on a background** - you can paint or draw your own or use wallpaper or wrapping paper (or anything else you can find). Remember, though, that the background images should be consistent with the scale you've chosen. **Decorate the Walls**: Most every diorama has three walls or views, a ceiling or sky and a floor, ground or base. You need to decorate these inside walls first. There are lots of ways to do this. You can paint them or color them with markers, crayons or paint. You can measure them, cut construction or other paper to fit on them, and glue that on. Or you can go to your computer and design something to look more realistic.
5. **Build your diorama working from the back to the front** - start with the background (don't forget the sky/ceiling and ground/floor). Then place large objects such as trees. The smallest objects should go farthest forward. Use glue or putty to secure the objects. Objects such as birds, clouds, balloons, and airplanes can be hung from the top using black thread. Tape or tie the thread to the object and to the box.
6. **Attach a title** to the box where it can easily be seen.

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| **Student Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** |

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| **CATEGORY** | **5** | **4** | **3** | **2** |
| **Style & Organization** | Display is interesting and attractive. Materials are complete and organized to present the ideas well. | Display is interesting and attractive. Materials are complete and well organized. Presentation has sequence and plan evident. | Some parts of the display are interesting, not try.. Some materials are complete organized. Presentation has some sequence and plan evident. | Display is uninteresting, not tidy. Materials are incomplete and not organized. Presentation has no sequence or plan evident. |
| **Topic** | Topic chosen in accordance with directions. | Topic concerns an element of US History lightly touched upon. | Topic concerns US History, not studied. | Topic does not apply. |
| **Creativity & Appearance** | Project is excellently presented reflecting creativity and a lot of thought. | Good creative effort. Project is neat and shows evidence of time spent on it. | Some attempt made to add color and originality. Project is neat. | Little attempt to add color or originality. Project has sloppy appearance. |
| **Knowledge** | The **diorama** demonstrates a thorough knowledge of the subject investigated | The **diorama** demonstrates good knowledge of the subject investigated | The **diorama** demonstrates some knowledge of the subject investigated. | The **diorama** demonstrates very little knowledge of the subject investigated. |
| **Content Facts** | The project content is exemplary and suggests the student has discovered the important ideas of his/her topic. | The project content is good and suggests the student has discovered most of the important facts of his/her topic. | The project content is fair/poor and suggests the student has not discovered most of the important facts. | The project content poor and suggests the student has not done sufficient research. |
| **Housekeeping** | Diorama has name clearly displayed, and title. | Diorama has title clearly displayed, name is attached somewhere. | Diorama has name, no title. | No name visible, no title. 0 Points. |
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