

Habitat Shoe Box Project (Diorama)

Project Due: Thursday, March 30th

At Home Project



Hello Fabulous First Grade Parents,

We have just started studying World Habitats as part of the First Grade Common Core ELA Domain. We are in the process of learning about the characteristics of different habitats and what kinds of animals live in each habitat. By creating a shoebox habitat with your

child at home, you will expand on what he/she is learning in school and allow your scholar to put those budding creative talents to good use!

Scholars should choose a habitat from the list below. He/she will decorate the shoe box to replicate the habitat chosen. Be sure your scholar includes one or two animals from that habitat; the animal can be clay, a small toy, or a picture - be creative! **The animal(s) should be able to fit in the shoebox habitat.**

Both the animals and habitat are due by Thursday, March 30th but feel free to bring your project in as soon as it is completed.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact me.

Habitats to Choose From:

- Arctic/Polar
- Desert
- Forest (Temperate Deciduous)
- Grasslands/Savanna
- Mountains
- Ocean
- Pond
- Rainforest

What you might need to make the Habitat Shoe Box Project (diorama):

- Shoebox
- Construction paper
- Modeling clay or Playdoh (can be found at Michaels, Target and Wal-Mart.)
- Various supplies based on your habitat (For example: sand, some leaves from the yard, cotton balls to use as snow or clouds etc.)

What to Do:

1. Ask your child to tell you about the different habitats that he/she has talked about in school. If he/she doesn't remember, you can ask him/her questions about the forest, ocean, desert, grassland and arctic habitats. For example, "What's the weather like in the desert?" "Is there a lot of water in forest habitats?" "What kinds of plants and animals live in the ocean?"
2. Talk about the habitat he/she chose. On a piece of paper, brainstorm with your child what the scenery might look like in his habitat (icebergs, trees, mountains etc). What kinds of plants and the animals live in that particular habitat? He/she can draw a sketch of what he/she wants his/her habitat to look like, to use as a guide.
3. Help your child create the background and the ground for the habitat. For a grassland habitat, you can use Easter grass for the ground. For an arctic habitat, glue white construction paper or some cotton balls to the bottom of the shoebox. For a desert habitat, you can glue sand to the bottom of the shoebox. For an ocean habitat, you can cover the bottom of the box in blue construction paper or even blue saran wrap and make green seaweed out of construction paper. These are just suggestions, please be as creative as you wish.
4. Now you and your child can add some details to your habitat. Brainstorm with your child the different kinds of things you can use in his scene. For a grassland or desert habitat, you can create a watering hole by painting a small food container blue and placing it in the shoebox. For an arctic habitat, you can create icebergs from empty white egg cartons. For a forest habitat, you can paint cotton balls green and place them on tree trunks made of brown clay. For an ocean habitat, you can make corral or sunken treasures from play-doh. The sky's the limit! Let your imagination run wild!

5. Now it's time to add animals to your habitat. You can use the animal made from clay to create animals, you can either have your child draw the animals on some cardstock or you can print some animals onto paper from the computer before making it from clay.
6. Now that you did so much research and had many discussions while creating your diorama, it is time to fill out the **Habitat Diorama Presentation** form. Practice presenting your information at home so you are ready to present to the class.
7. Please send both the habitat shoe box and the **Habitat Diorama Presentation** form into class by **Thursday, March 30th.**

Happy Habitating!!

All projects will be on display during
the school science fair.