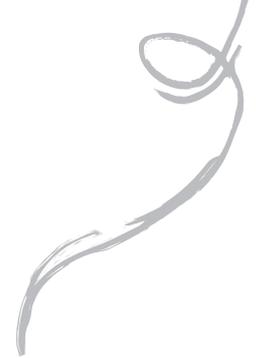® City of Ryde

SWAP

Sustainable Waste 2 Art Prize

Make the World Come Alive

Dioramas are small three-dimensional (3D) models that depict a scene, creating a miniature world. They are often made up of many small components and are enclosed in a case or a box.

Australia is losing many of our native animals to extinction due to deforestation and climate change. In this project, use a diorama to create the ideal natural environment for a native animal, bird, fish or insect.

To do this, you might like to think about the following questions:

- Where do they prefer to live?
- What do they like to eat?
- Is there any other wildlife that they normally live near?

SUGGESTED MATERIALS

- An old cardboard box (such as a large shoe box or a printing paper box) to make your diorama inside
- Materials to hang items with such as salvaged fishing wire, yarn or ribbon
- Old magazines, newspapers and wallpaper samples
- Small waste items such as straws or corks.

Steps

1. Pick a native animal, bird, fish or insect you would like to build a world for and begin researching! Once you understand a bit more about your creature, start to design your diorama. Think about the kind of waste items and reclaimed materials you could use to depict different components.

2. Dioramas are all about creating perspective. Think about how different elements in your design could be situated in your diorama. What might you be able to hang from the ceiling? What would be better standing up at the front? Where an element is positioned in the diorama will impact how you attach it.

3. Create a background for your diorama by using recycled magazine pages and other reclaimed materials to create landscape, colour and texture.

4. Do you have any items to hang? Tie them up and attach them to the ceiling of your diorama box using removable tape or sticky tack. Once you are happy with the positioning, use a metal skewer to create a hole. Fasten the hanging items securely in place using packing tape on the outside of the box.

5. Look inside your diorama world. What other creations are needed? Think about how you can make different artwork elements stand up in the foreground. Small cardboard strips folded into triangles or small boxes work well to give support.

6. Look at the outside of your diorama. Find large scraps of recycled material or paper to very neatly wrap up your diorama. This could be plain to draw the viewer's eye into your work, or something brighter that it's an extension of your created world. Consider making a label that goes on the outside of your diorama, giving an explanation about the world inside.

APPLES