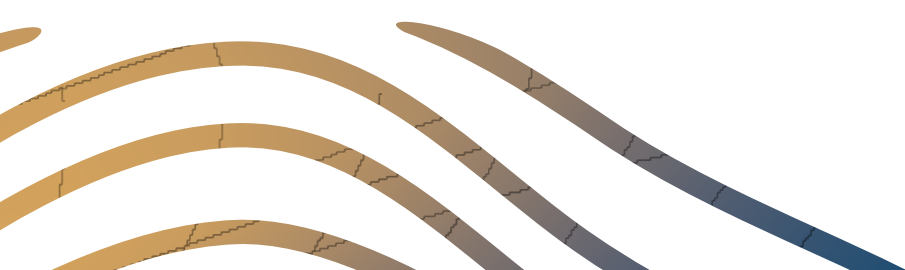




**THE OCEAN SENSES
ACTIVITIES BOOK**



The background is a solid orange color. It features several sets of white, wavy, curved lines that resemble ripples or stylized waves. These lines are positioned in the top right and bottom left corners, creating a sense of movement and depth. The central area is clear, highlighting the text.

TOUCH



OCEAN FLOOR DIORAMA

Focus:

To consolidate pupils' learning about the ocean floor in a creative and fun way. Through creating a diorama, the pupils will think about what the ocean floor looks like and what species live there.

Learning objectives:

In this activity, pupils will design, classify, and find a place for all the elements and characters that compose the ocean floor and biodiversity that they have learnt about in class.

This specific lesson plan was developed in a close collaboration with:
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Edited by: Giuliana Panieri and Mathew Stiller-Reeve

Layout and Graphics: Heike Jane Zimmermann

Maric, F., Poto, M.P., Zimmermann, H.J., & Panieri, G. (2023). Ocean floor diorama. In G. Panieri & M. Stiller-Reeve (Eds.), *The Ocean Senses Activity Book* (pp. 85-87). Septentrio Educational, 2023(1). <https://doi.org/10.7557/8.7058>

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IN SHORT (FOR THE TEACHER):

This a creative activity that can nicely round off your other lessons about the sea floor and the animals and organisms that live there. It requires that the pupils already have some knowledge about these issues. Making a diorama is an artistic approach that can help pupils to consolidate their knowledge about life on the sea floor and to inspire further discussion:.

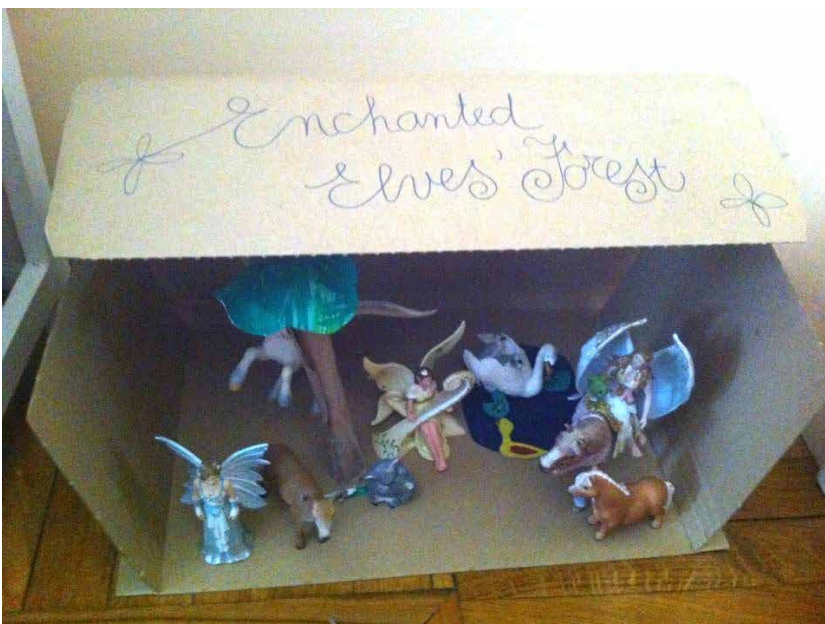
Materials:

To make a diorama, pupils should have the following at their disposal:

- Modelling clay
- Cardboard box or container (e.g., shoe box)
- Glue
- Scissors
- Paints and paintbrushes
- Markers
- Fabric scraps
- Sands and sediments to use as the seafloor
- 3D printed or sculpted sea animals and/or foraminifera (if possible) [see activities on sculpting sea animals and foraminifera]

Teaching Time:

2-3 hours or can be extended to a longer project.



Example of a diorama, here showing the “enchanted elves’ forest” (Image: Margherita Poto)

Learning procedure:

The pupils can design the diorama on a sheet of paper. They can draw the elements they want to include like the ocean floor, flora, fauna etc.

Because dioramas are ideally 3D installations, they should be made in a box or frame that is several inches/cm deep. The container must have an open-faced front so that viewers can see the scene. Consider the design of the diorama when selecting the container. For instance, a diorama about deep sea will need to be tall enough to accommodate the landscapes and layers of vegetation.

Pupils can paint the outside of the box for a more finished look. Do this first and let the paint dry before starting work on the inside of the diorama.

Begin at the back of the container and work forward, adding layers of details and images to create depth to the scene. Decorate the background and inside walls first. Consider painting a basic scene or the pupils can print an underwater image and glue it on. Pupils might use images of bubbles or plankton for example.

A realistic diorama should include details on the bottom of the box as well. Pupils can use pictures, paint, modelling clay and sand to create a realistic ground or floor for the diorama. They might leave it flat or add hills and valleys as they see fit.

Pupils can sculpt their own animals (or add small toy animals) and place them on the sea floor or hang them from the roof of the box/container, so it looks like they are swimming.

Add some informative labels and exhibit the art piece!

More information:

These websites give some more ideas about how to make ocean dioramas:

<https://www.thesprucecrafts.com/ocean-diorama-craft-1253799>

<https://www.wikihow.com/>

Make-a-Diorama https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_DJKyM3JIAI