

Diorama of the Night

Objective: To build a scenic 3-D representation of the night sky.

Materials:

- A large box with an open front, such as a shoebox.
- Scissors
- Glue and/or tape
- Construction paper and cardboard pieces
- Other materials: could include pens, pencils, markers, paint, crayons, stencils, clay, glitter, lights, legos, popsicle sticks, or pipe cleaners. Be creative!



Procedure:

Gather all the materials you think you will need and lay them out on the floor or table.

You may choose to decorate the outside of your box. Some students cover their boxes with construction paper, or decorate it with words, photographs, poems, or writings about the night sky.

Now it is time to create your diorama. Start your night sky by asking yourself these questions about what it will look like. Will it be over a city, or a nature landscape? How much light will there be? Will your scene look abstract or realistic? What celestial objects will be in your night sky?

Once you've figured out what you want it to look like, the next step is to decide how you will create it. Will you use cardboard to create buildings or mountains? How will you make your stars shine? Are you going to add color by using paint, markers, or another medium?

Lastly, draw, cut-out, and decorate any pieces that you need for your landscape and glue or tape them into your box.

Voila! You have your own night sky creation.

Some more advanced options are to create buildings using bricks made of modeling clay or use LED lights to imitate the effect of street lights. Fiber optic lights can be used to imitate the stars. Students can create a night sky that accurately represents the current celestial objects and constellations. Some students may choose to use legos or other figurines in order to include trees, people, or other realistic looking objects into their night scenes.