Habitat Diorama Project

Due Wednesday, November 9th

We’ve been comparing and contrasting the needs, adaptations and habitats of different animals. A habitat is the natural environment in which an animal usually lives (fish in the ocean, bears in the forest, penguins in the South Pole, etc.). Adaptations are special characteristics that animals have developed in order to survive in their habitats. Pick one animal and use reference books and the Internet to learn about your animal’s natural habitat and adaptations. After you’ve finished your research, you will create a diorama of your animal’s habitat. A diorama is like a stage set made from a cardboard box with no lid (shoeboxes work great). To create a diorama, you turn the box on its long side and cover the background (bottom of the box) with painted or colored scenery. Then, you place figures and objects in front of the background like characters and props on a stage.

What you need:
- Cardboard box (or shoebox) without lid
- Suggestions for decoration: A variety of art and craft supplies, including paint, colored pencils and markers, crayons, colored crepe paper, colored construction paper, colored modeling clay, pipe cleaners, animal print or furry fabric swatches. A collection of natural objects, such as small rocks, leaves, grass, moss, pine needles, and twigs.
- glue
- scissors

What to do:
1. First, add background scenery to the bottom of the box. Then, stand the diorama up on its side before adding the figures and objects. You may use cut-out pictures of animal figures and objects, or build them from clay and other materials. Be creative, using any materials available to craft your animals (Ex: pine needles for antennae, pipe cleaners for legs, tiny rocks for eyes, etc.) If possible, add natural or crafted objects to your habitat to make it look realistic. Glue the objects to the box so they won’t fall when the diorama is carried.

2. Dioramas will be presented in class. Complete the attached presentation form about your animal and its habitat. You will share this information with the rest of the class when you explain your diorama.

Complete the attached form and bring it in with your project. Please make sure you write neatly.

Have fun!
Second Grade Teachers