



MAKING A SEASHORE ROCKPOOL DIARAMA

Rock pools are shallow pools of seawater that form on the rocky intertidal shore. Many of these pools exist as separate bodies of water only at low tide. Many tide pools are habitats for a range of amazing animals.

If you can't go to the seashore, create your very own seashore rockpool diorama to enjoy at home. A Dioramas is a small scenes created of layers of materials, all depicting a concept or theme.

Steps to creating a seashore rockpool diorama:

Getting Started:

1. Take time to dream and imagine:

- What does your rockpool habitat is like – imagine and dream about the colours, smells, texture and even the taste (e.g. salty?) of the rockpool.
- What type of elements make up a rockpool - What are the rocks like? • Is there any sand • Are there any empty shells? • What types of seaweed will you find in your rockpool • How much seawater is in the rockpool?
- Imagine what type of animals live in the rockpool habitat.

2. Create a list of animals that you think you might find in a rockpool.

- Think about the animals that live buried in sand, stuck on the rocks, hidden under seaweeds, and those that might be swimming in the water.
- Think about how you can either draw animals, find pictures, or create miniature models.

3. Make a list of the items that you'll need:

- A shoe box
- Recycled materials that you can find: like plastic, bubble wrap, tinfoil, cellophane, scraps of paper, string or wool, fabric.
- Printed pictures for cutting out, or paper and markers or crayons for drawing pictures,
- If you have them, you may like to use stones, sand, shells, beach wood, twigs
- Art and craft materials including: sizzors, cutting knife (parents to assist), cutting board, paint, brushes, colouring sticks, double sided tape, glue, lollypop sticks etc.
- You may want to use modelling clay, styrofoam, play dough, construction paper etc.

4. Create a rough sketch of what you would like your seashore rockpool diorama to look like.

- Look online for ideas such as Pinterest or YouTube. Sketch out what you want the diorama to look like, including the background and foreground of the rockpool. For example what will you seen in the distance (at the back of the shoebox) and what will you see in the front. Think about the layout of all the figures and where they will be placed.

5. Choose a concept or theme



- This might include a scene in the rockpool involving the animals, maybe someone looking into the rockpool. It might be scientific representation of a rockpool or an imaginary scene.
- 6. Select a container for the diorama.**
- We recommend using an old shoe box and tipping it onto its side. However you may find an old box or wooden crate. Don't forget to paint outside the box you are using to give it a finished look. Do this before you start the inside and let it dry while you are making the other pieces for the diorama.

Making your diorama:

1. Create a background

- Start by creating a background of the box and work your way forward. You could paint the background scene, or use a scene printed scene, or create a collage background of cutouts on a card – then glue the card onto the back of the box.
- Add the layers of detail and images to create a sense of depth to the scene.

2. Build up the landscape of the rockpool

- Use pictures, paint, modelling clay to create the shapes of the rockpool. For instance you may like to shape the rocks above and below the waterline of the rockpool. Think about gluing sand or gravel at the bottom of the box, so it looks like the bottom of the rockpool

3. Add the details

- Using the items that you want to create your scene, lay them out to see how you want them to sit in the box. Space things out from back to front. Don't glue or tape anything in place until you are happy with what and where you want the items to go.
- Complete the scene with miniatures of animal figurines or pictures that you have cut out. If you cut out images stick them onto a lollipop stick and stick into blue tack to stand; or use fishing wire to hang birds

4. Glue time

- Once you are happy with the layout, make the final adjustments so everything is balanced. Then start to glue everything in place.