



Swamp Dioramas

Introduction

In the book "The Swamp Where Gator Hides," the reader is introduced to animals that live on or near a swamp. In this activity students create ten swamp dioramas that illustrate various scenes from the book.

Materials Needed

- ◆ A copy of the book
- ◆ Ten shoeboxes
- ◆ Poster paint and paintbrushes
- ◆ Cardboard or construction paper
- ◆ Animal pictures from magazines or drawn by the students
- ◆ Scissors, craft glue
- ◆ Dental floss or sewing thread, popsicle sticks or tongue depressors

Key Concepts

- ◆ Each organism has different structures for different functions.
- ◆ All organisms have different needs.
- ◆ Behavior is influenced by internal cues (hunger) and external cues (change in environment.)

Procedure

1. Read the book "The Swamp Where Gator Hides."
2. Explain what a diorama is, asking students to think of their boxes as a theater stage.
3. Students choose a scene in the book that they want to use to make their dioramas. Two students work together if you plan to create dioramas of the first ten illustrations.
4. Students make a list of the elements they want to include, and how they will position them in the shoebox, i.e. what will be in the back and what goes in the front.
5. Turn cardboard boxes on their sides and paint the colors of the background landscape or glue construction paper to the inside.
6. Make the animal figures from construction paper, or use pictures from magazines and paste them on construction paper.
7. Glue them in the appropriate places in each swamp diorama.
8. Consider hanging objects from the top of the box with dental floss or thread. Or have the vole pop from a hole. Be creative!
9. Read the book again, enjoying the dioramas as you read it.

Nature Connections

- ◆ Have students research what makes up a swamp. Four or five could work together to create a scene in one large cardboard box. There are many other swamp creatures that could be included. It would be fun to see how different the dioramas are.

Additional Resources

<http://everydaylife.globalpost.com/tips-making-book-report-diorama-shoebox-27879.html>

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/diorama/book/>