



# Nature Dioramas!

**Create a home for the animals you see in Ranger Russ's videos using materials you have in your home! Make your diorama simple and colorful or elaborate and scientific.**

Share a picture of it on the Meigs Point Nature Center website!

## Materials You Can Use:

Cardboard box, like a shoebox or larger

Paint, markers, crayons

Glue

Colorful construction paper

Moldable dough/clay or homemade clay (see recipe below)

## Homemade clay:

1 cup cornstarch, 1 cup baking soda, ½ teaspoon salt, 1 cup water

Mix and cook on low to medium in a pot until it congeals together. Let cool.

**Here are some ideas to get your started but use your imagination!**



## Long Island Sound/Beach

- Paint or color the inside of your diorama the colors of the water and the sand or use colored construction paper.
- Add your favorite animals (crabs, fish, lobster) found in the Long Island Sound by painting them inside your box, cutting them out of construction paper or printing them from the computer.
- Make your favorite beach and water animals out of homemade clay and decorate them using markers or paint.
- Make some shells out of clay to add to your beach.

## Woods

- Search your yard for twigs, leaves pinecones, acorns - anything you would see in the woods and use them to decorate the inside of your diorama to look like the woods!
- Make some of the animals you would see in the woods out of clay (turtles, frogs, snakes, coyote)
- Paint a small stream or pond and add the animals that live in or near the water.

## Salt Marsh

- Use some dried grasses to create the look of a salt marsh.
- Paint or make the animals and birds that live in a salt marsh.
- Draw a picture of a bird's nest with eggs hidden in the grasses.
- Make or draw an Opsrey platform with a nest!
- Make one side of your diorama low tide and the other side high tide.

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