

Sea plastics diorama

Create a sea diorama using plastic and single-use packaging that you would normally throw away.

WE RECOMMEND USING

- A cardboard box (e.g. shoe box)
- Drink bottles & lids
- Plastic straws
- Plastic bags
- Plastic packaging
- String
- Sticky tape
- Paints
- Paint brushes
- Egg carton
- Stanley knife



INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 To create the top of your diorama, ask an adult to remove one of the sides of your box.
Tips: Remove one of the widest sides (see image). Use sticky tape to hold the remaining sides in place if your box starts to fall apart. If the top of your box has any flaps, cut these off with the knife.
- 2 To create your diorama's ocean background, paint the interior of the box blue except for the base (this will become your ocean floor).
- 3 To create the ocean floor, paint the base a sandy colour.
- 4 While the paint is drying, use your recycled plastic items to create different marine animals (e.g. octopus, jellyfish, fish, sharks, whales, turtles, dolphins) and arrange them in the box.
- 5 Using string and sticky tape, suspend your marine animals from the top of your diorama so they look like they are swimming.
- 6 Decorate the sea floor with rocks and shells or use recycled material to create plantlife (e.g. coral and seaweed).



DID YOU KNOW?

Each year, Australians buy 15 billion plastic bottles. After heavy rain, these plastic bottles (including the straws we often use to drink from them) can end up in the ocean where they entangle sea life. The ocean also causes plastic packaging to break down into microplastics, which are ingested by sea life. Marine animals cannot properly digest microplastics. It fills up their stomach and can lead to starvation.



Syllabus areas: Geography & Science Stages 1-3

Learning outcomes:

SUBJECT	STAGE	LEARNING OUTCOME	CONTENT
Science	Stage 1	ST1-9ES ST1-10LW	The environment and use resources sustainably. (ACSHE022, ACSHE035) Earth's resources, including water, are used in a variety of ways. (ACSSU032) Living things live in different places where their needs are met. (ACSSU211)
Science	Stage 3	ST3-11LW	The growth and survival of living things are affected by the physical conditions of their environment. (ACSSU094)
Geography	Early Stage 1	GEe-2	Investigate the importance of places they live in and belong to. (ACHGK002, ACHGK004)
Geography	Stage 1	GE1-2	Investigate features of places and how they can be cared for. (ACHGK005)

Learning Activities

Spend some time researching the following questions:

- 1 What marine life can be found in Sydney Harbour?
- 2 What damage does plastic cause to marine life?
- 3 What is the most commonly found plastic in the sea?
- 4 What plastic items do you use and then either recycle or put in the rubbish at home?
- 5 Research and brainstorm ideas on how you could reduce plastic use in your home.
- 6 Type up your research, print it in an A4 landscape document and stick it to the back of your diorama.