

## Ocean Ecosystem Diorama Assembly

Your completed "ocean ecosystem" diorama will look similar to the picture on the package.

1. Carefully separate all the printed components from the cardboard sheets. The very large piece of cardboard is for the frame of your diorama. There is another large piece of cardboard that is the background of your diorama. There are many other components that include underwater plants, rocks and fish.
2. Use the supplied crayons to decorate all of the components. You can also use your own color pencils or markers. When decorating the background card, be sure to color the ocean similar to the four (4) zones that have been previously described.
3. After decorating all the components, you are ready to assemble your "ocean ecosystem" diorama.
4. Fold up the bottom and 2 sides of the diorama frame. After placing the tabs in the slots, it is best to use glue on these parts to insure that the frame stays together.
5. Next, glue the large background card to the inside of the diorama frame. You are now ready to add all the other components... rocks, sea plants and fish.
6. Glue all components in places that you feel looks realistic. It is also important to glue the "zone cards" in their proper location level. When studying the "ocean ecosystem," you will know where the fish are properly placed.

YOU HAVE NOW COMPLETED YOUR "OCEAN ECOSYSTEM" AND SHOULD BE QUITE PROUD OF YOUR ACCOMPLISHMENT!

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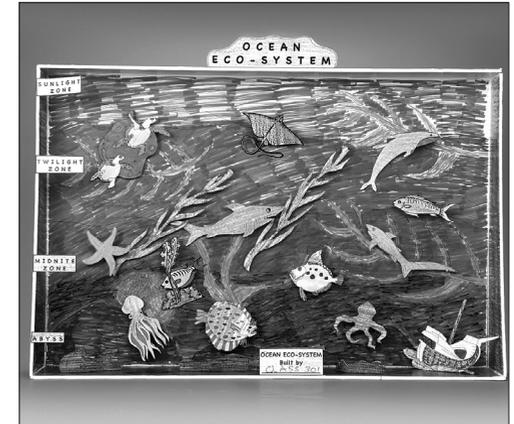
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*Discussion Ideas • Resource Information • Assembly Instructions*

## Organic Ocean Group Size Diorama™



PACKAGE OF 3



Please read all directions before starting.

### Your package contains:

- Diorama Frame
- Diorama Backgrounds
- Crayons
- Scored 3-D Pieces
- Labels
- Glue

### Additional Materials You will Need:

- Markers or Paint (optional)

**Instructions:** Please read this brochure before starting the project. This project is great for encouraging group work. Encourage them to think about the ocean. Discuss what types of animals and plants live in the ocean. Ask them why the ocean is important to us. Divide the group into teams and assign them each a different part of the process for completing the diorama. The easiest way to complete the project is to color the diorama frame and all of the cut out pieces before assembling them. The project can be completed at one time, or divided into different time slots. It is best to have leader involvement for guidance. Have fun learning about the ocean, its creatures and how important it is to our lives.

**Teaching Activities Inside**

## TEACHER/PARENTAL INFORMATION

The best way to start this project is to learn about the **Ocean Ecosystem**. In addition to classroom discussion, there are many books written for children on this subject that describe the four (4) zones, sea-life and general information.

- *Awesome Ocean Science by Cindy A. Littlefield*
- *I Wonder Why the Sea Is Salty by Anita Ganeri*
- *We Both Read About the Ocean by Sindy Mc Kay*

In this project children will create their own **ocean ecosystem** using many of the skills needed for child development.

- Fine motor skills
- Sequencing
- Group participation
- Creative thinking

## CHILD DISCUSSIONS

- Who has visited an aquarium?
- What do divers see when they go under the sea surface?
- Who has been to the ocean?
- What types of things could you find in the water?
- What do you think fish eat in the ocean?
- Is the water in the ocean different colors?

## Basic Ocean Ecosystem Facts

The “ocean ecosystem” is a community of organisms and their environment. In other words, it is about the ocean and all the living things that are part of the ocean. The ocean is very important to the earth’s climate, as it absorbs and stores heat. The ocean also releases oxygen to the earth’s atmosphere.

- The ocean has four (4) layers:

**Sunlight Zone** – the top layer of the ocean and is soaked in sunlight. It is generally up to 33 feet deep. Most of the fish in the ocean live in this top zone.

**Twilight Zone** – a small amount of light is in this zone. Plants do not grow here. Very few species of fish live here... the octopus and squid for example. These fish must survive extreme pressures and very cold water.

**Midnight Zone** – ninety percent (90%) of the ocean is in this zone. There is no light and near freezing. Very few fish live in this zone and live near the cracks in the earth.

**The Abyss** – this zone is the deepest and starts at about 3000 feet below the surface. There is no light, no source of food and extremely high pressure. The fish that live here are very, very small, blind, and some even glow in the dark!

- The ocean is very important as it supplies food to much of the world’s population. Most countries are very protective of the ocean around their country, to protect their fishing industry.