Derwent Valley Diorama

How this links with the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site:

Create a simple diorama taking inspiration from the historic landscape and buildings of the Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site. The Derwent Valley is rich with industrial mills and factories. Use the resource photos to draw your own valley landscape or use the templates provided.

You will need:

- 3 Template sheets or 3 x A4 sheets watercolour paper
- Drawing Pencil
- Rubber
- Watercolour paints
- Brushes
- Scissors
- Water soluble Pencils
- Needle
- Cardboard cereal box
- Magazines - cutting out image detail i.e. trees, clouds, window, door
- Masking tape or sellotape
- Glue stick
- Ruler
**How to have a go:**

**Step 1:**
Use a pale wash of watercolour to paint the Base/back board, Background and Diorama Layers. These are the 3 printed sheets in your pack. Colour the sections as you want. Cut out the Diorama Base/back and stick to cardboard as instructed on the sheet. Follow instructions in Step 5 on how to fold the sheet to a 90% angle to form the base for your Diorama.

**Step 2:**
Decorate with coloured pencils for further detail. As in Photo2. Look at the resource sheets for inspiration on textures used in the paintings to make the landscape features. When you finish decorating the sections carefully cut them out using the scissors.

**Step 3:**
Further decorate with magazine cuttings using a glue stick and trimming around the template pieces to tidy up.

**Step 4**
Place the layers on top of each other to get an idea of the finished scene. Next cut around the outside edge of the Tab block.

**Step 5**
Use a needle and a ruler to score down both fold lines and crease the paper. It should form a flat-bottomed U shape. Flatten the paper down and cut along the short lines to make 6 tabs.
**Step: 6**

Use a needle and ruler to score along the 2 side fold lines on the background piece (main photo) and along the base tab as in the photo top right.

Stick 2 small tabs to the back of the background at the top. Apply the glue to 1st section of the tab only.

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**Step: 7**

Apply glue to the base tab as photo 1. Fold it back and attach it to the base of the prepared Base/back board (shown in the 1st photo in Step: 1).

Press the tab edge right up to the crease of the fold line on the Base/back board. Stand the background upright against the back board and glue the tabs in place.

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**Step: 8**

Score the base tab on the 1st layer and attach 2 tabs on the back. Attach to the base board in the same way as in Step: 7.

Pressing the tab right up to the base of the background layer. Stand the 1st layer upright and attach the 2 tabs at the top to the background.

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**Step: 9**

Repeat as in previous Step.

Attach to the base board in the same way as in Step: 7 & 8. Press the tab right up to the base of the 1st layer. Stand the 2nd layer upright and attach the 2 tabs at the top to the 1st layer.

Now all layers are attached.

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**Step: 10**

To strengthen the sides of the Diorama turn it upside down – underside of the base is facing you. Stick a piece of masking tape or sellotape across each end of the base and a short way up the back. Stick it so it goes half on the base and half on the paper sides of the background layer as shown in the diagram in the 2nd photo.
Step: 11
Photo 1. Shows a view of the Diorama from the side, the layers and the side panel of the background. Photo 2 shows the completed Diorama.
Diorama Base

Stick sheet to cardboard and cut around edge of rectangle

Back

Fold along the line

Base

cut out along black line
Please let us know what you think of this activity and share your work with us

When you have had a go at this activity, we’d love to hear what you think, or see your work. Please send us any feedback below by 12th October 2020.

Post us your work – If you would like to post us any of your work or let us know what you think of this activity with a note with your name and address (and age if you’d like to share that). We are hoping to have an exhibition in the Autumn on one of the mill sites of the work created by people all along the valley. We will return all your work to you after the exhibition.

Postal address:

Georgina Greaves (DVMWHS Creativity Packs)
Derbyshire County Council
North Block S7 - County Hall
Matlock
Derbyshire DE4 3AG

Send us a photo – Email a photo of your creation to info@derwentvalleymills.org

Social Media – If you use social media use #DVMWHSCreativity and post the images of your work and tag us at:

Facebook: @DerwentValleyMillsWHS
Twitter: @DVMillsWHS
Instagram: @DerwentValleyMillsWHS

Hope you enjoy doing this craft activity!