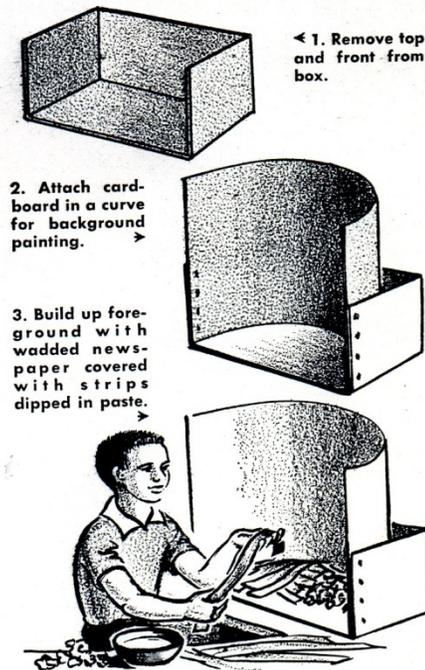


### A DIORAMA

Drawings adapted from Child Life Magazine [?], 1940's.



When I was teaching art to children in Victoria, B.C. during the 1990's, one of their favorite projects was the diorama. ["dya-rama"].

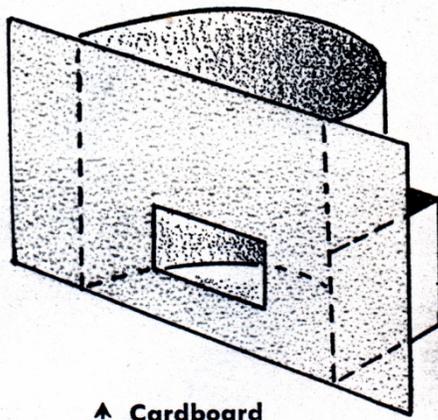
I kept empty shoe boxes on hand; or any box approximately that size will do. The idea is to create a 3-dimensional scene in miniature, including background, earth, floor, trees and objects. You can add a rounded piece as in the drawing, or without the round will work nearly as well [but best with a smaller peephole].

The favorite plan was an outdoor scene showing mountains & night sky in the distance and a campfire in the foreground. People & animals could be added, but we found that this scene even without them satisfied the young artists.

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**To make the evening diorama,** besides the box you will need the following:

- = Dark blue paint for the sky. Paint should be opaque, such as tempera, acrylic or gouache. If you have only watercolor, start by gluing or taping white paper to cover the inside back & sides of the box, so the color of the paint will show up.
- = Black paint for the mountains, which are silhouetted.
- = White or yellow paint for the moon; or cut a moon or half-moon out of paper to glue it on. Something for stars - dots of paint or stick-on stars.
- = newspaper strips dipped in a mixture of white glue & water & laid out for the ground. This can be covered with sand, dried grass or you can have it for a realistic effect. Pieces of gravel can be rocks.
- = Little sticks of sumac kind for logs of wood for the fire. The fire will be maybe 3 inches across as it lays on the ground.
- = Something bright red & crinkly for the fire, such as tissue paper, ribbon or cellophane. Wet it with the glue mixture, crush, glue to "logs" & ground.



A Cardboard front panel with peephole.

Y This diagram shows how the box was cut in two to give a 2D view of the scene inside. This is all the observer can see.



Looking thru the peephole makes it appear 3-dimensional

= Trees can be made from wire or from the end leaflets of bushes, or from forked sticks topped with tissue paper or absorbent cotton dipped in paint or food dye. To stand them up use melted wax, balls of dough, a kneaded eraser or modeling clay. Add bushes made of pieces of parsley, spruce or such like.

*Look for more craft ideas each month under this heading. We hope later to publish a Bakpak booklet of these.*