

Rainforest Habitat Diorama

Learn all about tropical rainforests and the animals that live in this habitat by making this exciting shoebox diorama.



STEP ONE – take a shoe box



For optimum space, use a large shoebox and keep the lid attached. Positioning the box upright also provides the vertical space needed for tall rainforest trees.

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Step 2 Keep the box lid permanently fixed at a 90-degree angle by attaching a small box at the bottom portion of the hinge. Use a glue gun or tacky glue to keep the small box in place

Step 3



Use a water-based paint like tempera or poster paint to paint the inside of the box. Paint a background for your diorama with a single shade of green or go for several shades to create depth. Paint some trees and animals, if you like.

You can paint the outside of the box as well. If your box has a glossy finish, paint it with acrylic paint.

Step 4

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These are trees to be placed at the corners of

the box. Cut a long rectangle from brown construction paper. The rectangle's height should be at least an inch taller than the box height. Draw a vertical line $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch from one long side to define the side tab and a horizontal line $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch from the bottom short side to create the bottom tab.

Draw half of a tree trunk starting from the vertical line and branching out towards the opposite edge of the paper. Cut out the tree.

Next



Fold the side tab towards the back and unfold. Similarly fold and unfold the bottom tab. This should create creases on both tabs.

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Next, cut out about an inch from the top and bottom of the side tab,



Then glue the half-trees onto the right and left corners of your box diorama. Glue the side tabs onto the sides of the box and the bottom tabs onto the bottom of the box.

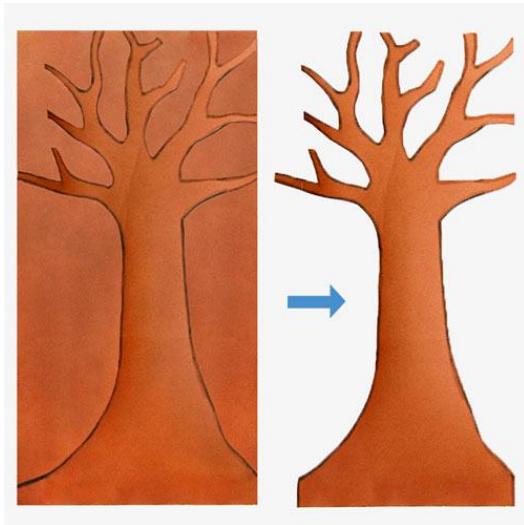


Fold the tops of the branches and glue them to the ceiling of the box.

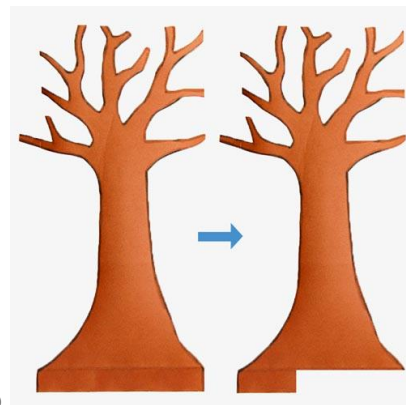
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Step 5



Make a whole tree for middle section of the box. Cut a long rectangle from brown construction paper— its height must be an inch taller than the box height. Draw a tree trunk with branches on the entire rectangle. Cut out the tree. Next create a bottom tab by folding $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch from the bottom of the tree.



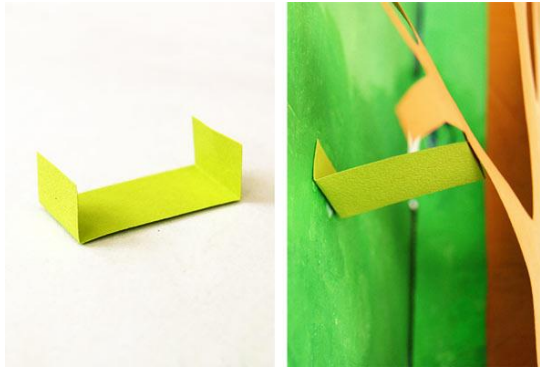
Unfold. Cut away half to two-thirds of the bottom tab.



Position the tree in the middle of the box, right where the hinge is. Glue half of the tree trunk onto the box lid. Glue the bottom tab onto the bottom of the box. Fold the tops of the branches and glue them to the ceiling of the box.

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Make C-shaped tabs.

These paper tabs provide extra support for the branches and are only necessary when the leaves are too heavy for the branches.

Fold a small strip of construction paper on both ends to make a C-shaped tab. The tab must be long enough to span the gap between the branch and the box. Glue one end of the tab at the back of a branch and the other end onto the box.

Step 6



Add leaves.

Cut several strips of green crepe paper and crumple them slightly. Starting with the backmost tree, glue the crepe paper to the branches and to the edges of the box. If you don't have crepe paper – use tissue paper or just colour in/paint ordinary paper



The more leaves you add, the lushier the trees.

Try placing them so they extend outside the top edge of the box. You can use different shades of green for contrast.

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Step 7



Create some ferns, philodendrons, and other rainforest plants using plain paper or crepe paper. Glue the plants to and in the box.

Step 8



Draw rainforest animals or cut them out from old magazines. You can also print out any of the rainforest animal sets included in the pdfs on A4 or card then cut out the animals and position them in your diorama in the correct layer of the rainforest. You can glue them onto tree branches, behind the trees, amidst ferns and plants, or even on top of the canopy.

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Objects from nature - small rocks, twigs, dried leaves, and other materials from nature can be added to add texture to your diorama. Glue them in place with a glue gun. **Jungle vines** - tightly twist strips of green crepe paper to make jungle vines. To make your vines coily, wrap them around a pencil. Glue one end of each vine onto a tree branch or to the box's ceiling.



Have fun and enjoy making your diorama.