**Create a Habitat Diorama**

Dear Parents,

We’ve been studying the habitats (homes) found in Haleakalā National Park. Now it’s time to have some fun with what your child has learned! A habitat is the natural environment (or home) in which an animal usually lives (fish in the ocean, birds in the forest, etc.). Your child has chosen a habitat found in Haleakalā National Park. They will be creating a diorama which is a miniature model made from a cardboard box with no lid (shoeboxes work great). To create a diorama, you turn the box on its long side and cover the background (bottom of the box) with painted or colored scenery. Then, you place figures and objects in front of the background like characters and props on a stage. This diorama should include some images or models of the plants, animals, and geography of that habitat.

**What you need:**

**•** Cardboard box (or shoebox)

**•** Glue

• Scissors

**•** Suggestions for decoration: A variety of art and craft supplies, including paint, colored pencils, markers, crayons, colored crepe paper, colored construction paper, colored modeling clay, pipe cleaners, and cotton balls…

**What to do:**

**1.** First, add background scenery to the bottom of the box. Then, stand the diorama up on its side before adding the figures and objects. You may use cut-out pictures of animal figures and objects, or build them from clay and other materials. Be creative, using any materials available to craft your habitat. Glue the objects to the box so they won’t fall when the diorama is carried.

**2.** Have your child identify the habitat they created by writing the name of the habitat on the front of the diorama.

**3**. Students should write 5 sentences about their habitat and tape them to the back of the shoebox.

**4**. Your child will discuss and present their diorama to the class.

**Examples of dioramas:**

 