



# Sacred Heart Primary School Curriculum Theme Plan

## Expressive Art and Design: Dioramas Reception - Spring



**Rationale:** We look at animal habitats and we learn ways to represent a variety of animals and habitats in 3D art, including how to suspend items with string, sticks, pipe cleaners, etc.

**Attention Grabber:** Show a variety of animal habitat dioramas and talk about the similarities and differences we see. What textures and materials do you notice?

### Learning Objectives:

- *Explore, use and refine a variety of artistic effects to express their ideas and feelings.*
- *Return to and build on their previous learning, refining ideas and developing their ability to represent them.*
- *Create collaboratively, sharing ideas, resources and skills.*

### Skills developed in this unit:

- *Explain what they are making and which materials they are using.*
- *Select materials from a limited range that will meet a simple design criteria e.g. shiny.*
- *Select and name the tools needed to work the materials e.g. scissors for paper.*
- *Explore ideas by rearranging materials.*
- *Describe simple models or drawings of ideas and intentions. Discuss their work as it progresses.*

### Overview:

Lesson 1: Planning your habitat – what features will you include? What resources could you use to create them?

Lesson 2: Begin to paint shoe box and build features that will go inside.

Lesson 3: Add features to the habitat using a variety of resources and techniques

Lesson 4: Begin to design animals that will go in the habitat diorama  
Lesson 5: Create animals using junk modelling, salt dough, card, etc  
Lesson 6: Put finishing touches on dioramas then take them and invite a class for a visit.

**CST/SMSVC Links**

Social – children compare how their work is similar and different.  
Discerning about the choices they make and the effects of those choices.

**Cross-Curricular Links**

Physical development - fine motor skills developed by using different tools for modelling/cutting  
Science – animals and their habitats

**Resources**

Shoeboxes, tissue paper, card, cardboard, pipe cleaners, and a variety of other materials.

**Opportunities for enrichment:**

**Science museum** – invite a class to come have a look around our dioramas, then to showcase their work and describe their choices to the older children