

Miniature Museum, Shoe Box Dioramas

When students visit a museum they are presented with exhibits that allow them to Search, Discover and Share. You can experience the same type of discovery in your classroom.

Many students today have a hard time understanding the concept of past and present; the importance of the past (history) and of how different our way of life is today (present). In the museum we have 3 exhibits that you can use to help get across this concept:

1. One Room Schoolhouse – an approximate recreation of a one-room school of the past century.
2. Shellcrete House – reconstruction of a single room in a circa 1880-1900 Corpus Christi residence.
3. Jones General Store – an approximate recreation of a circa 1880-1900 general store, such as could be found in Corpus Christi.

Go over each of the sites with your class and discuss and compare and contrast life in the 1800's to life today. After your lesson, assign your students one of the exhibits and have them make a Shoebox diorama. No two dioramas should be the same. Arrange the dioramas to make your own classroom museum and invite others to learn a little about the past.

Students can find material in history books and magazines and also on the Internet.

Try these sites for some great pictures.

Assessment:

This activity is meant to be a supplemental activity to go along with the information on the museum website. This activity should help reinforce the vocabulary and main concepts of your lesson. If you wish to take a grade for this activity you may use the following rubric or create one of your own.

	0 – 11 points	12 – 22 points	23-33/34 points
Vocabulary	Minimal knowledge of key vocabulary words and definitions less than 70%	Average knowledge of key vocabulary words and definitions less 71-85%	Excellent knowledge of vocabulary words and definitions greater than 86%
Student Participation in the comparing a contrasting life in the late 1800 to life today	Student can minimally describe key concept of life in the late 1800's.	Student can extensively describe key concepts how life was in the 1800's and can compare it to life in	Student can extensively describe key concepts how life was in the 1800's and can completely compare

		current times with 50% accuracy.	and contrast it to life in current times with 90% accuracy.
Student creativity with diorama.	Student put forth minimal effort in the art project of creating a diorama	Student put forth average effort in the art project of creating a diorama	Student put forth maximum effort in the art project of creating a diorama
		Total Grade	100