



ACTIVITY CHECKLIST



Q4 • State Site Diorama Gallery Middle School • All School

Overview

Geography is a crucial aspect of understanding history and culture. These school-level activities encourage students to explore the world around them, consider it from a historical perspective, and to share what they learn with others.

Before the Activity

- ☐ Plan the Diorama Gallery event: determine date, time, location, class viewing schedule
- ☐ Develop a schedule for classes to view the gallery during the school day
- ☐ Gather diorama materials
- ☐ Invite community members to tour the gallery after school hours

During the Activity

1. Introduction

- ☐ Explain that students will create a diorama that represents a New Mexico site.
- ☐ Assign or let students form small groups of 2-3 students to collaborate on the diorama
- ☐ Provide the list of New Mexico natural, cultural, or historic sites for group selection
 - ☐ Ensure each group selects a different site when possible.
 - ☐ Approve selections to verify geographic, cultural, or historic significance.

2. Site Research

- ☐ Review how to gather information from books, online sources, or experts.
- ☐ Provide class time or homework for students to research and develop a written summary of the site's importance, including geographic features, historical use or major events, and cultural significance.



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3. Plan and Build the Diorama

- ☐ Review expectations for creativity and accurate representation
- ☐ Show examples or simple models to demonstrate scale and layout
- ☐ Students sketch a simple plan of their diorama, including:
 - ☐ Key landforms or structures
 - ☐ Colors or textures
 - ☐ Labels or symbols
 - ☐ Any people, animals, or objects shown
- ☐ Allow group building time in class.
- ☐ Provide materials such as shoeboxes, cardboard, clay, paper, paint, and recycled items.
- ☐ Dioramas must
 - ☐ Have clearly labelled major features in the diorama.
 - ☐ Accurately reflect the location of geographic elements
 - ☐ Encourage creativity while maintaining accuracy.

4. Closing

- ☐ After attending the Diorama Gallery, facilitate a discussion or written reflection about:
 - ☐ What students learned about New Mexico geography
 - ☐ How geography influences culture and communities
 - ☐ What surprised them about their site and other sites

Diorama Gallery Presentation

- ☐ Set up designated tables or display areas.
- ☐ Gather student dioramas
- ☐ Ensure all displays include student names, site name, and written summary
- ☐ Group dioramas by theme (e.g., natural wonders, cultural sites, historic landmarks)
 - ☐ Use signs to designate the area for each theme
- ☐ Display a brief introduction sign describing the purpose of the project.