

CREATE A HOLIDAY CRIME SCENE DIORAMA

Who stole Santa's cookies? That's the theme of our crime scene diorama!

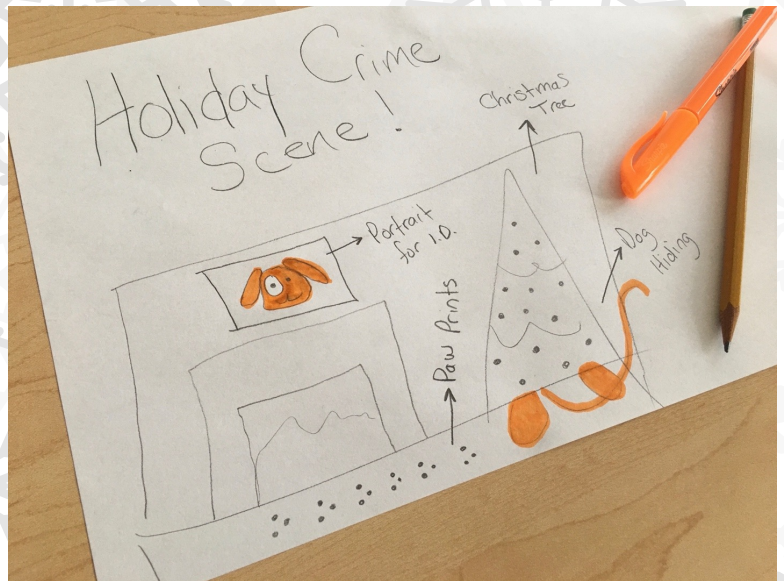
Investigate how we created a model of our mystery for others to solve using evidence from the scene. Follow our guide, based on the engineering design process, to get inspired and create your own.



Step 1: Make a sketch

Think about the theme and image you are trying to create. Then, sketch it out on a piece of paper. This will help you visualize what materials are needed.

For our diorama which creates a holiday crime scene (the family dog ate Santa's cookies!), we included Christmas elements to place the season, then ensured we had evidence provided. These included paw prints, a portrait to serve as identification, and even the dog's tail and paws poking out from under the tree (where he's hiding).



Step 2: Gather materials

Next, bring your diorama from 2D to 3D. A box will serve as the foundation. Then, think about household materials you can upcycle into items from your sketch.

Here are some suggestions:

Paper plates and cups, toothpicks, coffee stirrers and filters, popsicle sticks, glue, glitter and pipe cleaners/fuzzy sticks

On the next page, learn how to bring your concept to life!

Step 3: Build your diorama

Now's the fun part: start building! Some items you may want to draw directly on the diorama. Others can be built. The only rule here is for you to have fun.

We used a marker to draw the paw prints leading to the cookie tray. Then, a pipe cleaner/fuzzy stick was used to create the dog's tail and construction paper for its paws. For the holiday elements, we wrapped a paper coffee cup in green tissue paper and used various crafting materials, like glitter, to add some festive holiday cheer.



Step 4: Share It

Did you know that the last part of the scientific method is communicating and sharing your results? That applies here too!

What was the mystery you created? Did you use a holiday theme? Could others solve it?

Share pictures of your diorama with us on social media:



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