

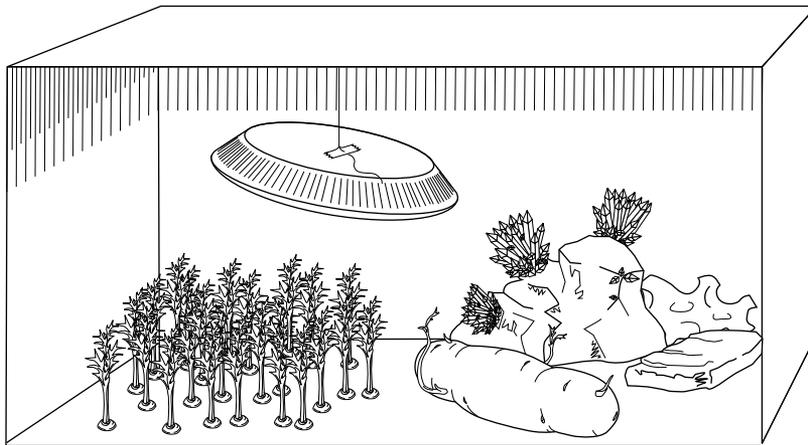
THE MAGIC OF THE MOVIES

SCIENCE

Make a Miniature Movie Set

In movies, some scenes are shot using miniatures. In this activity, you will build a miniature movie set for a science fiction scene.

1. The director has asked you to build a movie set in a shoe box. Your set will depict the landscape of a strange planet. Here is a sample shoe box set to use as an example.



2. In this example, the student used a sprouting potato, some stones, and the fernlike tops of carrots for the forest. The student also used thread to hang a flying saucer made of aluminum foil from the inside top of the box.
3. You can use any materials you wish to make your set. Think about interesting kinds of stones you could find in your neighborhood. What plants can you think of that would look like they were from another planet if they were filmed very large? Could you use scraps from a crafts project?
4. What kind of atmosphere do you think your planet would have? If the atmosphere was different from Earth's, how might that affect how plants, buildings, and creatures appeared? If you wish, imagine some alien buildings and try to create them.
5. How strong do you think the gravity on your planet would be? If the gravity were much stronger than Earth's, how would that affect how aliens appeared? How might they be different if gravity was much less than Earth's? If you wish, add alien creatures to your planet. You may not use manufactured aliens such as action figures. You must make everything in your set yourself.
6. Assemble your materials and a shoe box and build your set.

ANSWER KEY

Check that students use found materials to make the pieces of their set; not manufactured parts.