GEYSERS

Here's what we used...

SCENE-A-RAMA® Items

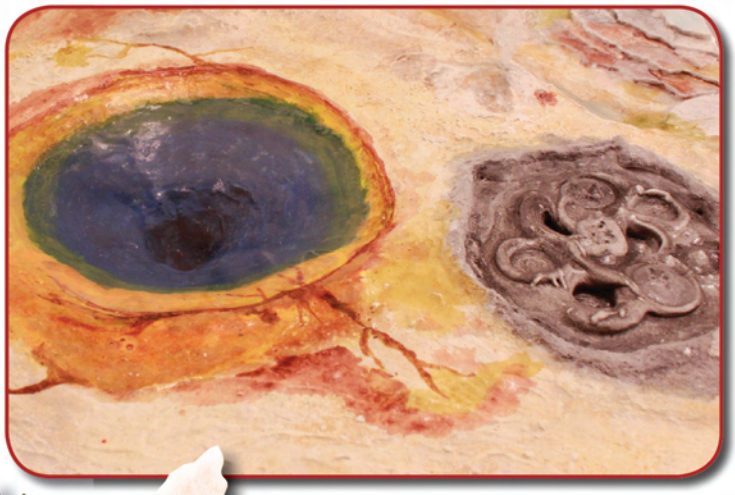
- **Water Diorama Kit**
- **Casting Plaster**
- **Large Project Base & Backdrop**

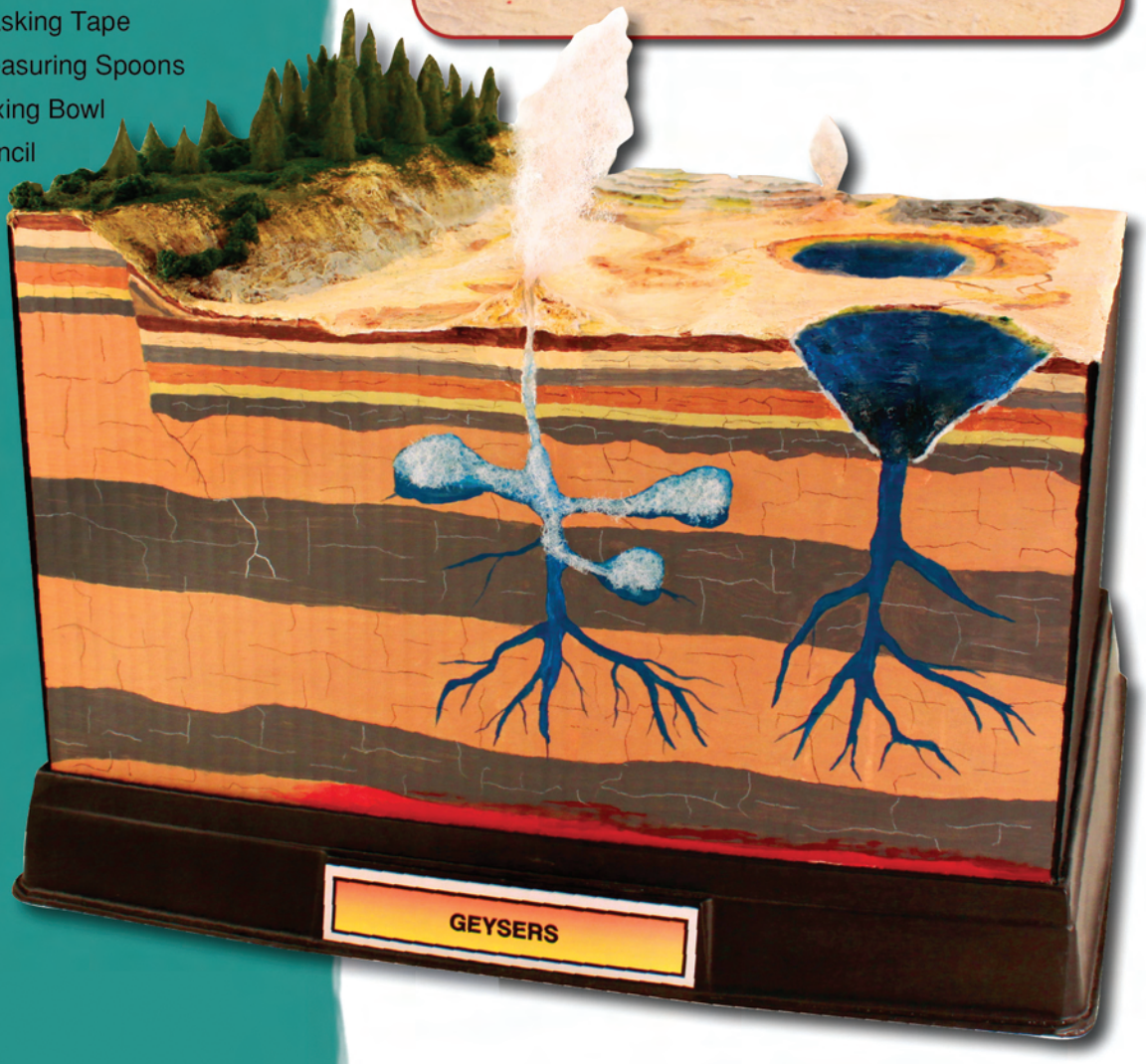
Household Items

- Corrugated Cardboard, 16 1/4" x 11" (2)
- Cotton Balls (or Polyester Fiberfill)
- Craft Paints and Brushes
- Cutting Surface
- Disposable Cup
- Drinking Straw
- Foil
- Hobby Knife
- Masking Tape
- Measuring Spoons
- Mixing Bowl
- Pencil

Did you know?

A geyser begins with molten rock superheating groundwater. Steam and boiling water rise through rock layers and collect in a chamber. The heated water cannot expand because of the hard rock, so when the chamber is full, the water has no where to go but up. Geysers first emit a jet of steam, followed by water.





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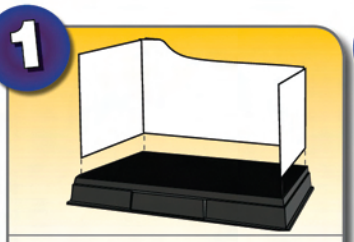

- Draw terrain profile on *Backdrop* material and cut out with a hobby knife.
- Test fit in grooves on *Project Base*, then attach with *Project Glue*.

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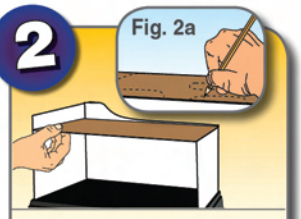

- Using a piece of cardboard, measure and cut a shelf for geyser display area inside *Backdrop*.
- Draw location of geysers, hot springs, mudpots, limestone rock formation, etc. (Fig. 2a)

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- Test fit shelf with *Backdrop*. Position shelf so it is level with lowest section of *Backdrop*.
- Mark underneath shelf on *Backdrop* to note location for shelf supports (Step 5).

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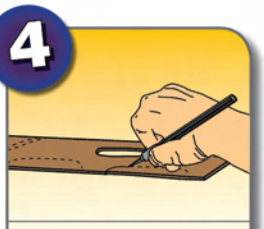

- Trim cardboard if necessary for best fit.
- Cut out hot springs with a hobby knife.
- We made two hot springs.

5

- Create Shelf Supports by cuttting strips of *Side Panel* and gluing at marked location level around inside perimeter of *Backdrop*.
- Rest shelf on shelf supports. Use *Project Glue* to attach. (Fig. 5a)

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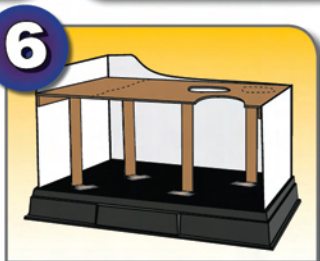

- Create Support Pillars by cuttting strips of *Side Panel* to support underneath shelf.
- Attach with masking tape.

7

- Cut a piece of cardboard to fit front of diorama and glue in place.
- Mark and cut out area for front hot spring.

8

Newspaper Wads

- Arrange newspaper wads into desired mountain range shape.
- Tape to hold in place. Do not place tape on front panel or *Backdrop* material.

9

Plaster Cloth and **Edging**

- Cover newspaper wads and top of diorama with wet *Plaster Cloth* (3" strips), bumpy side up.
- Smooth plaster with wet fingers to fill holes in *Cloth*.

TIP! Cover front panel with paper towels to help keep it clean.

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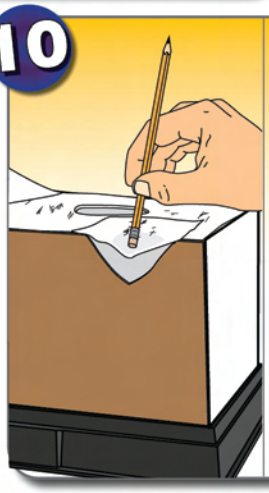

- Cut a piece of *Plaster Cloth* larger (on all sides) than hole cut for hot springs.
- Dip *Cloth* in water and place over hole, bumpy side up.
- Using a pencil, push down *Plaster Cloth* slowly. Leave about 1/2" of *Cloth* around edges.
- Smooth *Cloth* for desired shape. Add additional layer of *Plaster Cloth*, if desired.
- Form second spring in same manner.

11

Casting Plaster

- Mix a small batch of *Casting Plaster* per Basic Use instructions.
- Pour *Casting Plaster* onto foil. Flatten top with the *Stir Stick*.
- Let dry.

12

- When *Casting Plaster* is dry, break into desired shapes for limestone rock formations.
- Stack pieces and attach together with *Project Glue*. (Fig. 12a)

13

- Prepare another batch of *Casting Plaster*.
- Dab *Casting Plaster* over *Plaster Cloth*.
- Create high and low areas for desired terrain effect.
- Form waterways with edge of *Stir Stick*.

14

- Create mudpots by dabbing on a thick circle of prepared *Casting Plaster*.
- Place a straw in *Casting Plaster* and blow gently. This will create the bubbling effect.

15

- Create geyser mounds with small wads of wet *Plaster Cloth*.
- Create hole in geysers with the tip of a pencil.

16

Earth Undercoat

- Brush diluted *Earth Undercoat* on mountain area.
- Save some *Earth Undercoat* for step 18.

17

- Paint terrain, geysers, hot springs, mudpots, etc. with craft paints.
- Be creative! Use pictures of actual hot springs for color inspiration.

18

Talus

- Pour crushed *Talus* into remaining *Earth Undercoat*.
- Mix with *Stir Stick*.
- Remove *Talus*, and let dry on newspaper.
- When dry, attach along base of mountain.

19

Project Glue in Spray Bottle

- Spray diluted *Project Glue* on desired greenery areas.
- Sprinkle *Green Grass* heavily on wet glue.

20

Ground Cover

- Sprinkle darker *Accents* lightly over *Green Grass* to model realistic coloring.
- Glue *Shrubs* in desired areas.

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Conifer Trees

- Use *Foliage Fiber* to make conifer trees.
- Attach with *Project Glue*.

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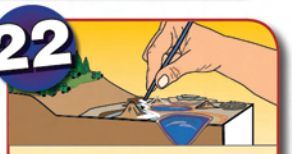

Realistic Water

- Pour *Realistic Water* slowly on water areas.
- Brush on hot springs, rock formations, mudpots and other areas to give a wet look.
- Let dry until clear (approx. 24 hours).

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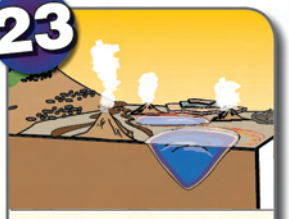

- Pull and stretch cotton balls (or polyester fiber fill) into smoke shapes.
- Spray heavily with diluted *Project Glue*.
- When dry, glue to geysers with *Project Glue*.

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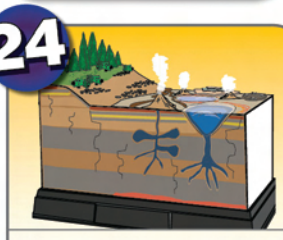

- Paint front of diorama to resemble earth layers and ground water.
- Use a pencil to mark cracks and crevices.

TIP! Glue stretched cotton balls to represent steam collecting in rock chambers.

25

Labels

- Paint outside of *Backdrop* and touch up any problem areas.
- Label and add signage to your project.

See the ***A+ PROJECTS & DIORAMAS: The Student's Handbook*** **(SP4171)** for more information.

More Ideas!

This Geyser project done by our testing student Greg. "I love how my project turn out, and I had the best time!"