

Create a diorama that shows a healthy river habitat – riparian area – for Nechako White Sturgeon. You'll use materials like fabric, pipe cleaners, and beads to represent different parts of the ecosystem! When building the diorama, ask the learners to think about the different life stages of Nechako White Sturgeon - eggs, larvae, juveniles, sub-adults, and adults. Do the different life stages have different habitat needs?

- Clean water, free of chemicals, trash, etc.
- A combination of river widths and direction - rivers shouldn't be straight.
- A combination of water depths and natural river flow with minimal dams, culverts or diversions, allows for barrier-free fish migration and access to all habitats.
- Vegetation along the riverbank, like grasses, shrubs and trees prevent soil erosion, provide shade, and filter out pollutants.
- A diversity of plants, animals, insects, and fish provide food and shelter to fish.
- Clean gravel beds increase the survival of fish eggs.
- Large rocks and logs create pools and slow flow areas that provide shelter and resting spots for fish.
- Absence of invasive* species that can disrupt the ecosystem.

The Activity Kit includes many of the craft supplies needed to build the diorama. We encourage you to add your own materials and ideas to this diorama - do not be limited by the supplies provided in the kit!

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Materials supplied in the Riparian Habitat Diorama Activity Kit by the Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative. If you run low, let us know! We may be able to replenish your kit with fresh supplies.

STEP-BY-STEP INSTRUCTIONS FOR RIPARIAN HABITAT DIORAMA

1. Prepare Your Box

- Start with setting your box on a hard work surface, like a table or the floor. This box will be the base of your diorama.

2. Create the River

- Use blue materials, like fabric or paper, to represent the river. You can also colour the river with blue markers or crayons.
- Make sure your river looks like it's flowing, by making it in a zigzag or curving pattern.

3. Add the Riparian Area

- On either side of the river, use your materials to make the riverbanks.
- You can also add small twigs or leaves to represent bushes, trees, and plants.

4. Add Fish and other Animals

- Use beads or small paper cutouts to represent fish. Place them in the river to show where they would live in their habitat.
- Add some birds flying, insects near the plants, or deer/mammals along the waters edge.

5. Add Rocks and Water Plants

- Use small pebbles, foam cutouts, or beads to represent rocks in the river.
- You can also cut out small water plants from paper or use green beads to add underwater plants.

6. Show the Sky and Sun

- Use your materials to create the sky above your river. You can even add some clouds and birds!
- Draw or create a sun in the sky. Sunlight helps plants grow along the river.

7. Make it Realistic

- Make sure you add details that show how everything works together.

8. Final Touches

- Look at your diorama and make sure everything is in place. Glue down anything that might fall off.
- Let it dry for a few minutes before showing it off!

Now you're ready to showcase your healthy river & riparian habitat diorama!

Send photos of your dioramas to us and we will share on our website or social media!

Reach out to us if you need to re-stock supplies.

info@nechakowhitesturgeon.org

Find more sturgeon activities on our website!

www.nechakowhitesturgeon.org



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