

LAPBOOKS AND DIORAMAS

Despina Karamitsou

1st Primary School of Stavroupoli, Thessaloniki

Introduction

Using lapbooks and dioramas is an inspiring and creative way to promote, enhance and consolidate foreign language learning and skills.

Aims

Motivate & inspire young learners
Create keepsakes

Objectives

Review & display language learning (grammar and vocabulary depending on the theme)

Procedure



Picture 1 'Weather' Lapbook

"Lapbooks" are collections of mini-books, pictures, graphs and/or "foldables" which are **multi-dimensional graphic organizers** gathered, designed, drawn, glued, and creatively displayed in an inexpensive file folder that fits in your lap. They can be used **at any age (K-12) and level**.

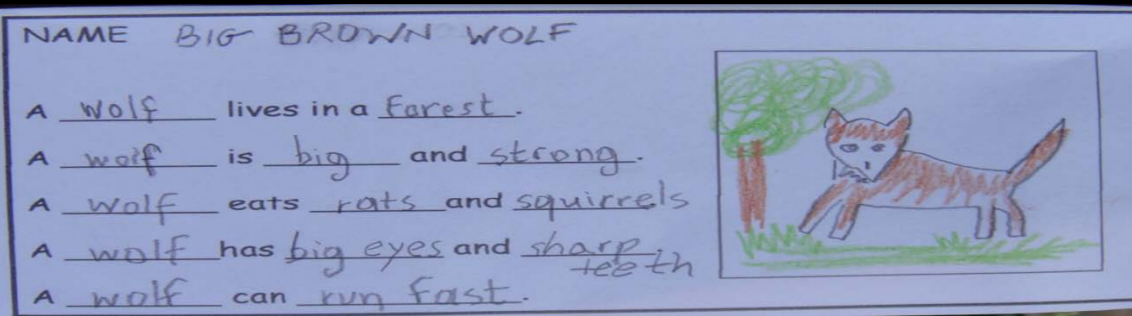
LAPBOOKING INSTRUCTIONS

1. Choose a topic (Magic Book themes ex. weather)
2. Break it into smaller chunks of information.
3. List all of these on paper and design the layout.
4. Consider what type of mini-book, foldable, graph or picture would best fit the information. Use a variety of mini-books to give the lapbook more visual appeal.
5. Let the children do the writing, drawing & assembling



Picture 2 'Nutrition + Dental Health' Lapbook

"Dioramas" are 3-D models of a landscape, event, space, scene or room. They can be constructed inside shoeboxes using **natural materials** (stones, sticks, sand, leaves, wood, fabric, etc) and/or hand-made cardboard, clay, or small plastic models/toys. Learners may present them orally or write any relevant information about them in cards glued on the box.



Picture 3 Forest Habitat for a zoo Diorama

Results/Outcomes

- All learners produce **unique** pieces of work in class -no parental help (evaluation done using rubrics)
- Even **the most reluctant** learners get motivated and cooperate.
- Learners with **learning difficulties** (dyslexia/ADD) also respond positively.
- High achievers excel.



Picture 4 'All about me' Lapbook

Amazing!

Conclusions

All learners get motivated, have fun, express themselves creatively and learn more **effectively** when lapbooks and dioramas are used in the classroom. So find out more about them and use them!!!

References

- www.youtube.com/user/Despinalina/videos
- www.squidoo.com/shoebboxdiorama
- <http://lapbooking.wordpress.com>
- www.squidoo.com/lapbooking
- www.HomeschoolShare.co
- Magic Book (for choosing topics)

Acknowledgements

I would like to thank the director of the school, Mr Christidis, for his support and all my pupils at the 1st Primary School of Stavroupoli for inspiring me with their creative ideas and their positive contribution in the classroom.

For Further Information:

Please contact Despina Karamitsou at: despinalina@yahoo.com