



MY

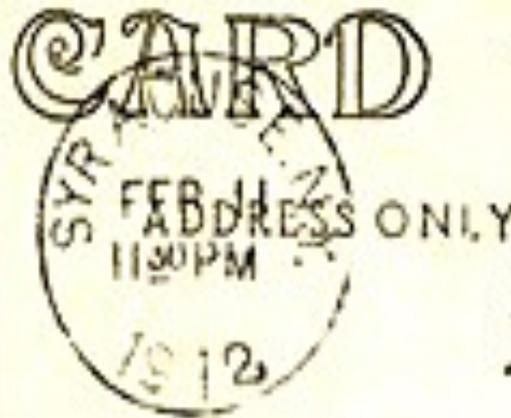
EXPLORERS



SUITCASE

POST CARD

CORRESPONDENCE HERE



TASK:

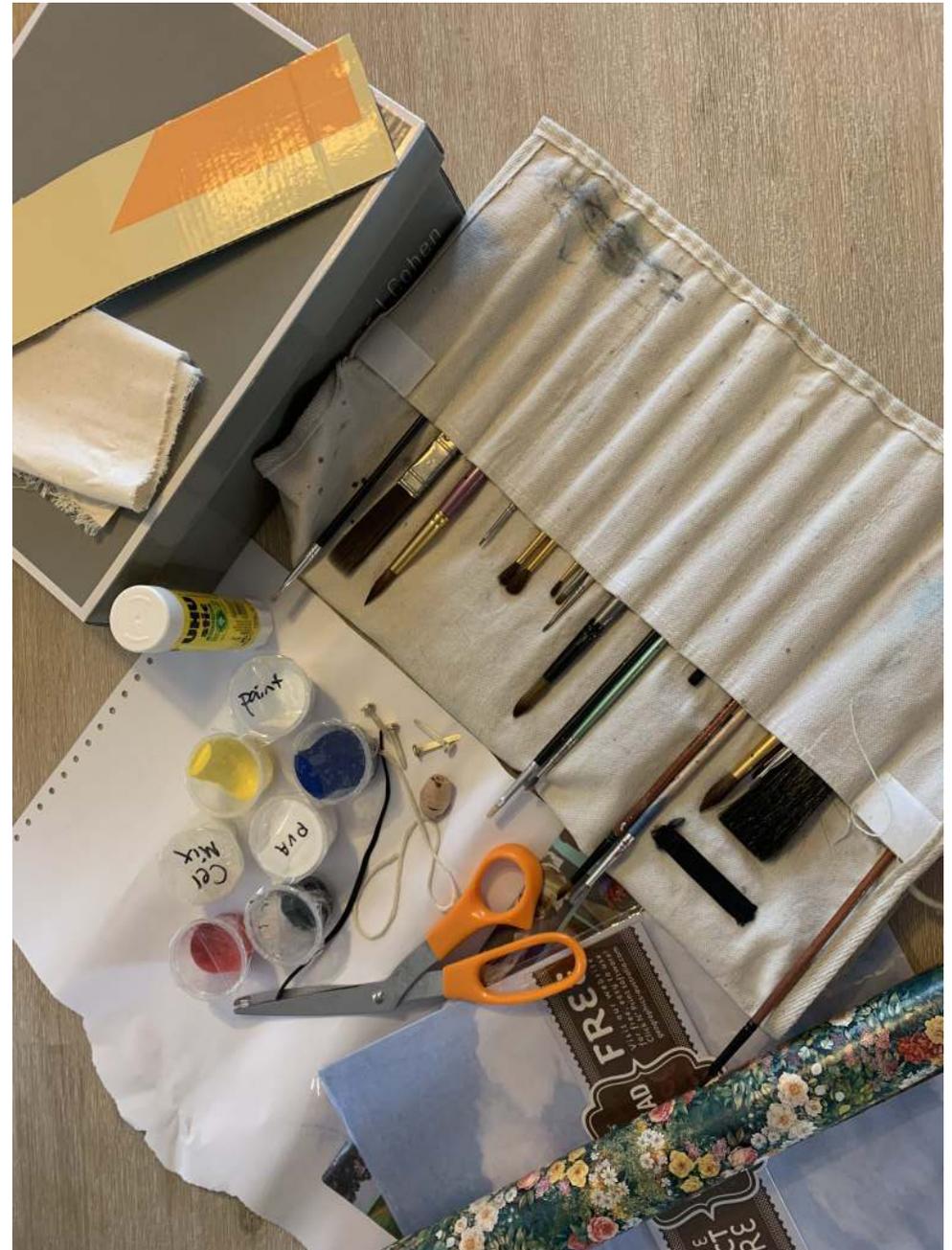
Create your own suitcase using a shoe box and Paper Mache and fill it with a images and/ or text related to your life/ your memories/your dreams/ your journey (real or imagined.) This could include a three dimensional diorama scene, pictures, postcards, stories and/ or poems about all the places you have been and things you have seen in your life...OR... dreaming of a holiday in these COVID times!?!... Perhaps you could fill your suitcase with places you wish you could go, real or imagined!

Bring your hand-made suitcase to the Bass Strait Maritime Centre by 3rd of July for display.

Whilst visiting the museum, complete the Explorer suitcase challenge running throughout the July school holidays!

YOU WILL NEED:

- Shoebox
- Newspaper
- White paper
- Split Pins (paper fasteners)
- Decorative paper (optional)
- Cel Mix or Paper Mache glue
- Fabric calico for handle and other for decoration (optional)
- Cardboard strips/straps/ leather, ribbon etc.
- Scissors
- Sticky tape
- PVA glue, glue gun (if you have one)
- Decorative materials such as: art materials, pencils, paints, wrapping/ decorative paper, foil etc. according to your design plan.



SOME EXAMPLES OF
SHOE BOX SUITCASES...



SOME EXAMPLES OF SHOE BOX SUITCASES...





SOME EXAMPLES
OF TINY
WORLDS IN
SHOEBOXES...





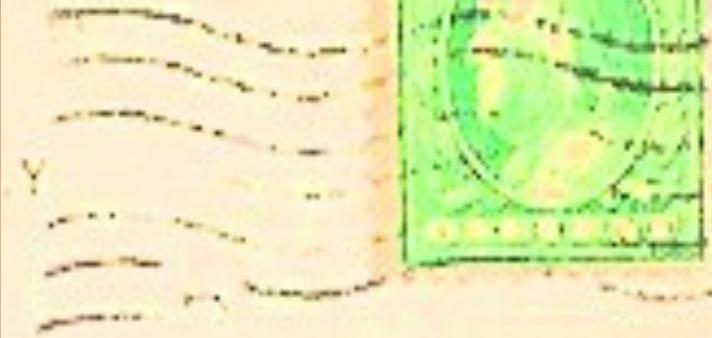
SOME EXAMPLES OF TINY
WORLDS IN SUITCASES...



SOME EXAMPLES OF OBJECTS AND ARTIFACTS ARRANGED IN SUITCASES FOR DISPLAY...



CORRESP



Step 1:

Decide what you want to put in your suitcase. Will you make a tiny world diorama or display some photographs and sentimental objects from your life? Perhaps you would like to create a make believe holiday destination of your dreams? Remember, the display is about your life, your memories, hopes and dreams. You might like to do some brain storming, quick sketches or have a look around the house for small precious objects that will look good in your suitcase display.



Step 2:

Paper Mache your suitcase. If your suitcase is not already hinged cut two slits at the sides so it can open and close easily like a hinge (see pictures). Do a couple of layers of newspaper Paper Mache over your entire suitcase. Paper Mache on your shoe box lid and bottom separately. For the final layers use white paper. This will make it easier to paint on. If you want to cover your suitcase in coloured papers, print outs of photographs etc. You could Paper Mache them on at this step instead of the newspaper and white paper.

MIX UP CEL MIX (PAPER MACHE GLUE)

PUT 600ML OF COLD WATER IN A CONTAINER AND MIX WITH A WHISK OR FORK WHILE SLOWLY ADDING THE CEL MIX POWDER. LEAVE SIT FOR 10 MINUTES. STIR AGAIN. YOU CAN APPLY WITH A LARGE SOFT PAINT BRUSH OR HANDS. (IF YOU HAVE SENSITIVE SKIN WEAR LATEX GLOVES).



IF YOU DON'T HAVE CEL MIX POWDER (PROVIDED IN ART PACKS) YOU CAN MAKE YOUR OWN PAPER MACHE GLUE...

What you need

- flour
- water
- mixing bowl
- spoon

Activity

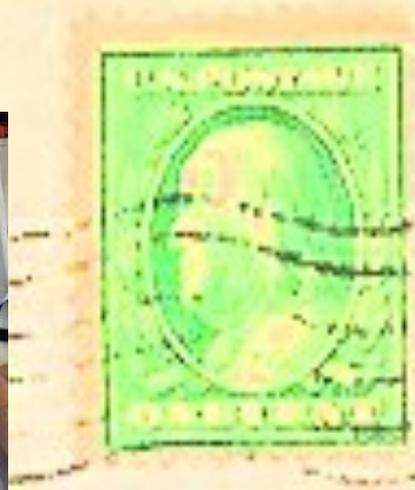
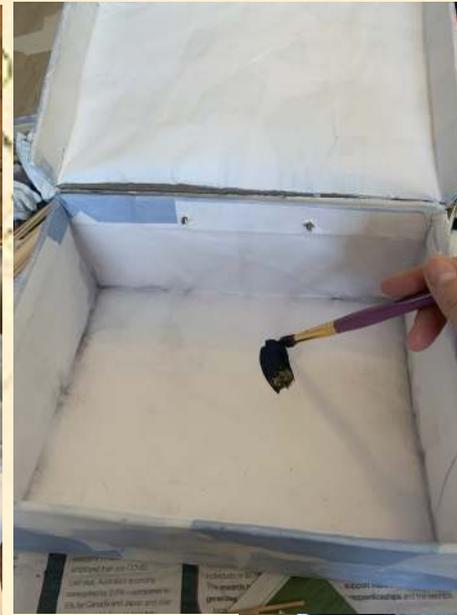
Mix one part flour with one part of water (eg, 1 cup flour and 1 cup water, or 1/2 cup flour and 1/2 cup water) until you get a thick glue-like consistency. Add a bit more water if it's too thick.

Mix well with a spoon to get rid of all the lumps. If you find you are getting lumps in your glue, you can use a small kitchen electric mixer to whiz them out.

Add a few tablespoons of salt to the final mixture to help prevent mould.

NOTES:

- You need to use strips of newspaper only, or even paper tissues or towels.
- Let the newspaper strips soak in the paper mache glue a little before using.
- Cover your artwork with only 2-3 layers, then let dry completely. This is an important step.
- Once a layer is dry you can add 2-3 more layers, remembering to let each layer dry before adding the next one.
- The final layer can be plain paper - so it's easier to paint - but use the thinnest paper possible and make sure it's soaked well in the Paper Mache glue.



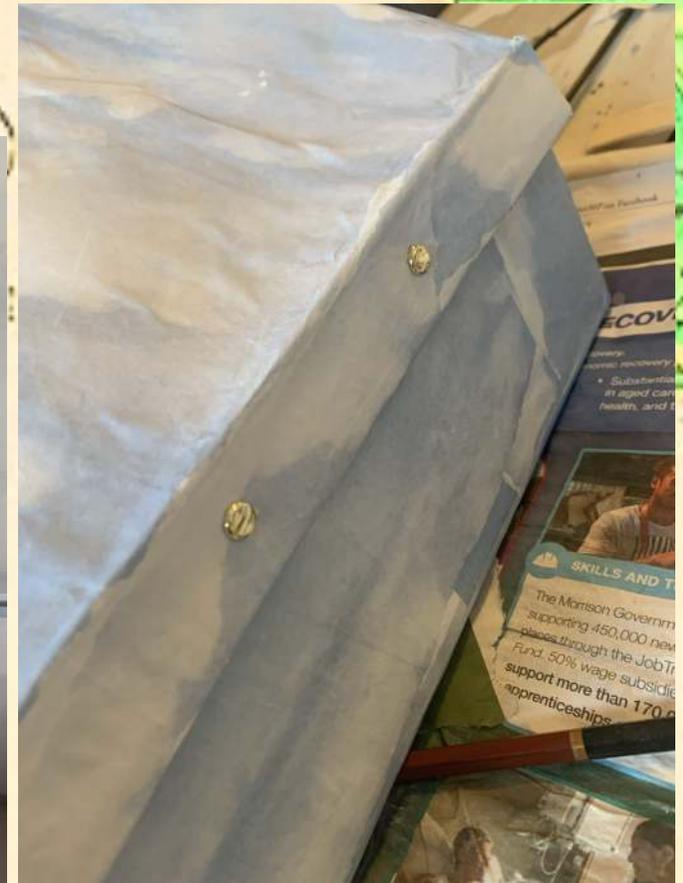
Step 3:

Once your Paper Mache has dried (best left overnight) you can then decorate and paint it (If you want to). I used a decorative paper and used Paper Mache glue to stick it to the outside of my suitcase. Then I used acrylic paint to paint the inside.



Step 3 continued:

I painted the inside of my suitcase black/ blue then used a tooth brush and various other stiff bristled brushes to flick paint to resemble stars.



I tried fitting my hinges before I painted the inside.

Step 4:

Once any paint or glue is dried its time to put your hinge together and add your handle. Once the paint or glue is dry carefully use scissors (or ask for help if needed) to put holes right through the hinge flap and the back part of your suitcase. Make sure they line up. You can measure with a ruler if it helps. Push the split pins through the holes and fold out on the inside securely.



Step 5:

Attach/ make a latch at the front of your suitcase. There are many different ways of doing this as pictured here.



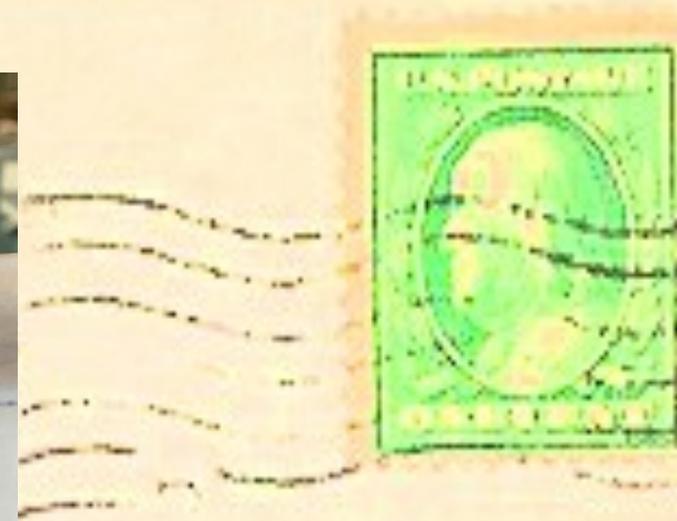
Step 5:

Cut out the length and width and shape you want. Cover in calico fabric, or any other fabric you have and glue down well. You can use pegs to hold fabric in place while it dried if you need to, or use a glue gun if you have one. Use split pins to hold in place, similar to how you attached the hinge.



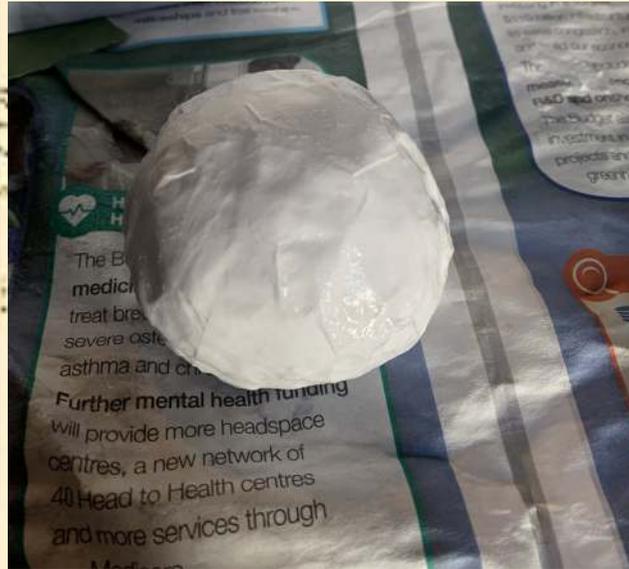
Step 5: Continued...

Attaching the handle



Step 5: Continued... Attaching clasp (if needed)

With all the layers of Paper Mache I found my suitcase did not need a latch to stay closed. However, if your suitcase does you can add one by making two holes, threading through elastic and tying off. You can do the same process to attach a toggle or button to the front of your suitcase using string. You can use the elastic hooked over the toggle as a latch to hold your suitcase closed when needed.



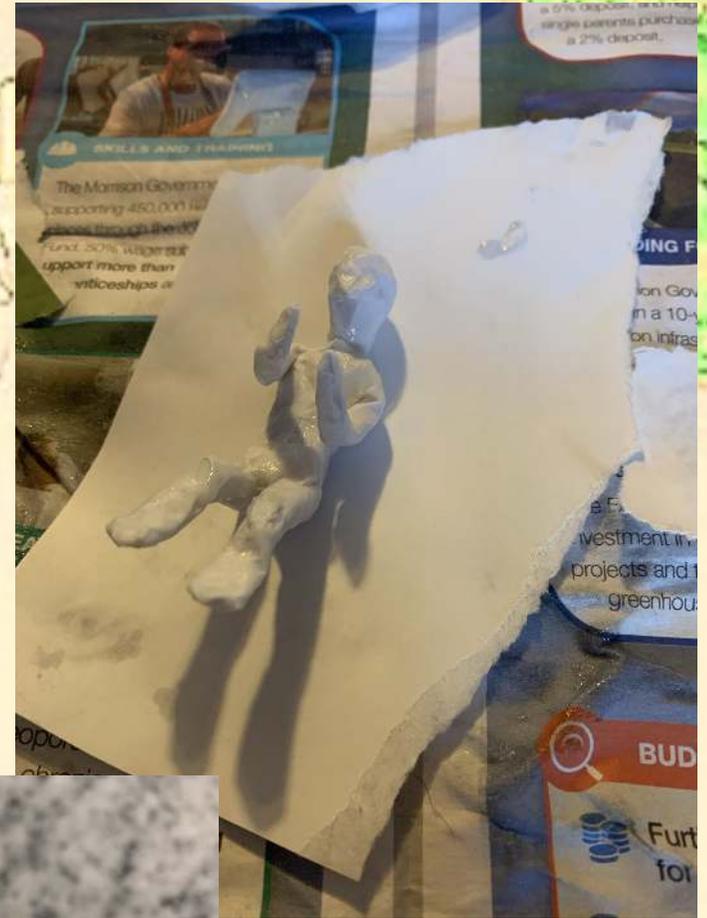
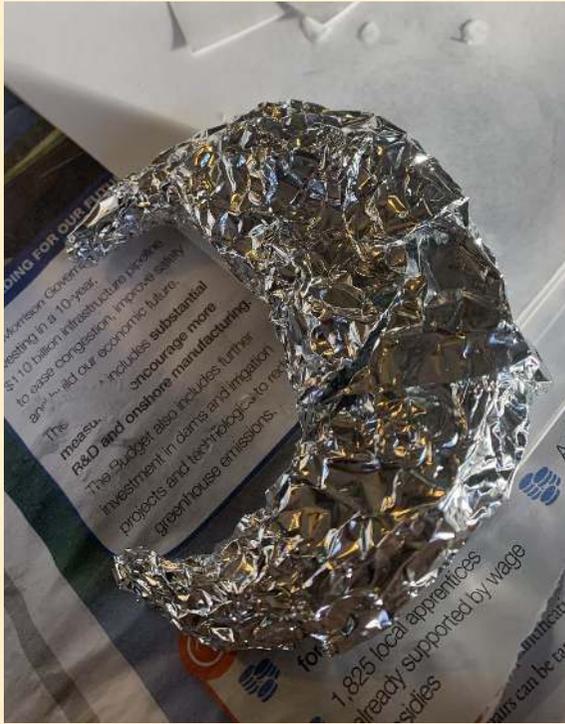
I used foil, covered it in Paper Mache, let it dry then painted it to create the earth.



Step 6:

Decorate the inside of your suitcase. It's up to you what you put inside for display.

I decided to make a diorama. I made some three dimensional objects using foil, Paper Mache, skewer sticks, cotton and some gold paper I had at home. I used a glue gun to glue it inside the box.



I also used foil, covered it in paper Mache, let it dry to create the moon and the human figure.

Step 6: continued...





Step 6: continued...

I used skewer sticks and a hot glue gun to create the ladder. I cut out star shapes in the gold paper and stuck them onto the box background.

Step 7:

Arrange your display inside your suitcase. If you are creating a diorama you can add in the figures and objects that are in your scene. Or you can stick in photographs and have a go at arranging different objects you have collected so that you are happy with the way they look when displayed. You might like to try a few different ways of setting them up. When you are happy with the way it looks, take a couple of photos so you remember the way to set up. Use these photos to help you when installing your suitcase for display at the Bass Strait Maritime Centre.





MY COMPLETED SUITCASE WITH DIORAMA INSIDE: *"FISHING FOR STARS"*

**BRING YOUR COMPLETED SUITCASE TO THE BASS STRAIT
MARITIME CENTRE FOR DISPLAY!**

DUE DATE SATURDAY 3RD OF JULY!

6 Gloucester Ave, Devonport TAS 7310



Please put your name and contact details on the bottom of your suitcase!



HOME
IS WHERE THE 'ART IS

*Share your
Creations*

Send in pictures of your Explorer Suitcase and process to share with the *Home Is Where the 'Art Is* creative online community to:

artgallery@devonport.tas.gov.au

