Throughout its life cycle the American eel (Anguilla rostrata) occupies different habitats. It starts its journey in the Sargasso Sea and makes its way to different tributaries, streams, and rivers like the Hudson River. In this activity you will create a diorama of an eel in its freshwater habitat. Remember, in an American eel’s habitat, they need things like food, water and shelter to survive. Below you will find instructions to help you get started in creating your diorama!

**Instructions:**

1. **Decide how your habitat will look**

   Some things to consider are: What will your background look like? What other plants and animals will you include? Think about the food chain that the American eel is a part of. What does an eel eat? Does the eel have any predators? What does the bottom of the eel’s habitat look like? Are there rocks or plants?

2. **Choose a box or container to hold your habitat.** A shoe box works great!

3. **Collect the rest of your materials**

   Items you can use for your diorama:
   - Clay, molding putty, or paper can all be used to create your eel, use your imagination!
   - Construction paper, paint, crayons, colored pencils, or markers can be used to decorate your habitats background.
   - Rocks and artificial plants can be used to reflect the bottom of your eel’s habitat.
   - Fishing line, string, or yarn hand be used to hang items from the top of your box.
   - Glue or tape will be used to attach your decorations and keep them in place.
   - Scissors
   - Pictures, magazine cuttings, or animal figures

4. **Arrange your materials in your diorama and be creative!**

5. **Report your findings** In a paragraph, describe your habitat. Why did you choose to decorate it this way? Explain the different objects in your diorama and why they were important to include in an eel’s habitat.
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Use this space to write a paragraph reporting your findings:

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