

How to model the 3 Maya regions and their farming practices

You will need:

- Cardboard
- Newspaper
- Egg boxes
- Modroc™ (see below)
- Scissors
- A bowl of water
- Paint and paintbrushes
- Paper and pens

Screw up some newspaper to make the southern mountains. Lay some folded newspaper to make the rainforest and northern grasslands. Leave some holes in between the newspaper in the northern grasslands and fill them with bits of egg box to make the cenotes.



Cut the Modroc™ into short lengths and take turns to put your pieces in the bowl of water and drape them over the newspaper, making the surface of the land. Carefully place them around the cenotes to keep them in place, but don't cover them. Drape them over the mountains to make them look craggy and steep.



To make the raised rectangular fields of the rainforest, fold a piece of Modroc™ in half a few times, wet it and then smooth it down on the central area of the model.



To make the terraces on the mountainside, take some card and fold it like a concertina, as if you were making a fan. Then trim the corners off one side so the top curves.



Place these at the foot of the mountains and wet some more Modroc™ and lay it over them carefully, making sure you mould the Modroc™ to follow the steps in the card.



Leave the model to dry.

While the model is drying, draw and cut out some of the plants and animals you found out were grown or lived in your region. You could even draw Maya hunters going after the animals. Make sure to leave a lot of white paper underneath the drawing so you can fold it under your drawing after you



cut it out so it can stand up on your model.

Don't forget the 'Three Sisters' of maize, beans and squash. We've also drawn avocado and cacao.

Paint your model. We've left the tops of the mountains unpainted to represent bare rock. Paint water in the bottom of the cenotes and around the raised fields of the rainforest. We've painted the farming areas in bright green. Then stand your drawings up in the areas where they were grown.



IMPORTANT

If you do not have Modroc, or something similar, you can use card, paper or papier-mâché. You could also use other techniques, if you think they will work.

Think about how you are going to show the raised, rectangular fields; card of different thickness perhaps?

Ensure that you leave enough time for your model to dry!