

DIORAMA OF HEAVEN

Preparation

Read “What Does Heaven Look Like?” (see attached). Then talk about why these particular plants and animals are seen in heaven. It is because they are gentle, useful, and/or beautiful. Everything in heaven reflects the good loves of the angels there.

Mammals

sheep with lambs

goats with kids

cattle

deer

camels

unicorns

Fruit Trees

orange trees

lemon trees

grapevines

fig trees

olive trees

pomegranate trees

shrubs with berries

Flowers

roses

palm trees

chestnut trees

linden trees

plane trees

Other Trees

Grains

wheat

barley

millet

beans

Birds

doves

swans

birds of
beautiful colors

Materials

modeling compound (colored beeswax, clay, Sculpey, *etc.*)

construction paper

scissors

colored markers

Procedure

Make the mammals, birds, trees, and flowers (mentioned in *TCR 78*) for a diorama depicting heaven. You can use a modeling compound to sculpt the animals. Or make pictures of the plants and animals, then cut them out to stand in the diorama.

Optional: If you wish, make a garden with fruit trees in the eastern part of the diorama, fields of grain surrounded by roses in the south, and groves of trees in the north.

Text Slip for Diorama:

In heaven, things are created by the Lord
according to the affections of the angels.

(see *True Christian Religion 78*)

Alternate Project—A Mural of Heaven:

Let children draw pictures of the plants and animals, then cut them out to be placed on a large mural. Be sure to make a beautiful sky with the Lord being seen in the Heavenly Sun!

What Does Heaven Look Like?

(*True Christian Religion* 78 and 794)

How Is Heaven the Same as Our World?

In the spiritual world there are lands just as in the natural world, and there are plains and valleys, mountains and hills, also springs and rivers. There are parks, gardens, groves, and forests. There are cities, with palaces and houses. There are writings and books; there are occupations and businesses. There are gold, silver, and precious stones. In a word, there are all things and each thing there that are in the natural world; but those in heaven are immeasurably more perfect (*True Christian Religion* 794).

An Angel Showed Swedenborg Plants and Animals in Heaven

"I will now show you how all kinds of animals and vegetables were produced by God."

He [the angel] led me away to a broad green field and said, "Look around." And I looked around, and saw birds of most beautiful colors, some flying, some perched upon the trees, and some scattered over the field plucking little leaves from roses. Among the birds were doves and swans.

After these had disappeared from my sight I saw not far from me flocks of sheep with lambs, and of kids and she-goats; and round about these flocks I saw herds of cattle, young and old, also of camels and mules, and in a kind of grove, deer with high horns, and also unicorns.

When I had beheld these things the angel said, "Turn your face toward the east." And I saw a garden containing fruit trees, as orange trees, lemon trees, olive trees, vines, fig-trees, pomegranates, and also shrubs bearing berries.

The angel then said, "Look now toward the south." And I saw fields of various kinds of grain, as wheat, millet, barley, and beans, and round about them flower beds containing roses of beautifully varied colors; but toward the north I saw thick groves of chestnut trees, palms, lindens, plane trees, and other trees with rich foliage.

When I had seen these things the angel said, "All these things that you have seen are correspondences of affections of the love of the angels who are near" (*True Christian Religion* 78:1,2).