## Contents

**General Information and Tips** .......................... 3

**Supply List** ............................................. 5

**Kubwa Tree** ............................................ 7

**Majestic Rock and Waterfalls** .......................... 10

**Rocks** .................................................. 11

**Greenery** ............................................... 12

---

**Logo & Finishing Touches**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Logo</th>
<th>Roar Fabric Wall Hanging</th>
<th>Finishing the Set</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bible Memory Buddy Cutouts</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---
General Information & Tips

Preparing to Build
Get ready for a giant tree, a majestic rock with waterfalls, and tons of imagination as you create your set for Roar! We’ll help get the decorating gears turning with set-building ideas to transform your space into an African savanna! You and your volunteers will have a blast as you create this fun VBS set!

- **Read through the instructions first, and plan your projects.** As you prepare to build your set, think about how much space you need to fill and consider your available budget—you can make some or all parts of these projects, go simpler or more elaborate, and size the set pieces to fit your space. Use our set ideas as a springboard, and just have fun!

- **Recruit volunteers.** Many hands make light work…and this is never truer than when building your VBS set! Enlist some handy church members who can help build the large set pieces, and don’t overlook your church’s youth group. Teens can help cut and tape craft paper, crumple crepe paper, and add the paint that will bring your set to life.

- **Calculate the amount of supplies needed.** The supply list provides you with a *general guideline*, since your set might be larger or smaller than the one we created for our field test. The size of the tree you create, for example, will affect the quantity of supplies, such as 2x4s, craft paper, packing tape, paint, and staples, so we can’t tell you exactly how much to purchase for your set.

  Sheets of white rigid foam insulation, also called insulation panels, are available at building supply stores, such as Home Depot, Lowe’s, or Menard’s, in different thicknesses. We used 1-inch thickness for our large top rock. If your local store doesn’t carry the foam insulation panels, you should be able to place an order. Be aware there may be large minimum requirements for an order, so you may want to connect with other churches in your area and place an order together. Another option is to check with insulation and shipping companies.

  We used a lot of brown and gray craft paper that comes on rolls and several sizes of cardboard boxes. You can also simply hang the Roar Fabric Backdrop, available from Group Publishing or your Group VBS supplier, and add fun, random “savanna” supplies from around your building or home, such as plants, trees, and colorful string lights. Easy!
• **Set up your work area.** It’s helpful to have separate stations for cutting and painting. Protect your areas by laying large plastic tarps or dropcloths on the floor. (You’ll recycle these later when making some of your rocks!) For safety, wear heavy gloves when using the hot knife. Be sure to wear latex gloves when using the Great Stuff foam adhesive; it’s very important to avoid getting foam on bare skin. Wear safety goggles to protect your eyes. Use a pair of sawhorses to cut the foam sheets with the hot knife; it’s easier on your back, and it protects the floor. Never use your leg to prop foam or wood while you cut it!

• **Watch the Decorating Places: Roar DVD.** The DVD is included in the Roar Ultimate Starter Kit. You’ll get more tips and helpful advice from our design expert, Bruce Barry.

**Techniques**

• **Muddling**—Bring two or more colors of paint together by using a little bit of one shade of paint, spraying the paint with a little water, and then adding another shade of paint. Be sure not to soak the cardboard. Then crosshatch (make X’s to blend) the paint on the cardboard. This technique gives a more natural look.

• **Using Great Stuff**—Available in different size cans, Great Stuff is a sprayable insulating foam that can be used as an adhesive for foam and cardboard. To use, hold the can upside down with the nozzle pointing downward. After the foam has been applied, it expands, so to avoid having a gap between items being glued together, place a heavy weight on top until the Great Stuff dries. If foam oozes out around the edges, wait until it dries and then remove it with a straight-edge utility blade.
Supply List

- drill
- jigsaw
- handsaw
- premium hot knife with straight blade* or 130-watt heavy-duty hot knife*
- hot glue gun and glue sticks
- 1-2 plastic spray bottles of water
- several utility knives
- several rolls of packing tape
- heavy-duty stapler and staples
- extension cords
- six 5-gallon buckets
- six 50-pound bags of concrete
- twelve 1"x2"x8' furring strips
- six 2"x4"x10' boards
- five 10"x10" cardboard boxes
- five 12"x12" cardboard boxes
- five 16"x16" cardboard boxes
- 20 sheets of poster board in several shades of green
- eight 4'x8' sheets of corrugated cardboard
- 2 sheets of 1"x4"x8' foam core
- 2 rolls of brown craft paper in different shades
- 2 rolls of gray craft paper in different shades
- Light and Dark Green Crepe Paper* (5 packages of each shade)
- 4 rolls of blue cellophane
- Water Fabric* (optional)
- yardsticks, tape measures
- Cool Connectors*
- black permanent markers
- 1 can Great Stuff insulating spray foam sealant (regular)
- 2 boxes 2" screws
- 3" to 4" paintbrushes
- brown paint (any shade will do)
- brown spray paint (we used Rust-Oleum Painter's Touch Ultra Cover Paint + Primer in Satin Espresso)
- small plastic paint buckets, large plastic cups, paint trays, paint stir sticks
- plastic tarps or dropcloths to cover work areas
- disposable latex gloves, work gloves, safety goggles
- Roar logo from Giant Decorating Poster Pack* or Roar Clip Art & Resources CD in Starter Kit*
- Giant Bible Memory Buddy Poster Pack* (optional)
- foam core (1-3 sheets for the logo, depending on size of logo; 5 sheets for Bible Memory Buddies)
- spray adhesive, such as 3M Hi-Strength Spray Adhesive
- lath (optional, to splice logo, if necessary)
- length of 1" PVC pipe, heavy-duty hot glue gun and glue sticks, heavy-duty fishing line (optional to hang logo)
- Roar Fabric Wall Hanging* (set of 3 panels is a total of 18 feet wide)
- pipe-and-drape system (most churches have on hand or can rent to hang the fabric panels)
- long zip ties (approximately 8") to hang backdrop
- media sandbags or other heavy weights
- clear packing tape
- gaffer’s tape
- fun extras to add to your set: plants, trees, greenery, and so on
*available from group.com
Paint:
(The following are colors from Valspar interior latex flat, but you can use any similar colors.)

Greenway, 6005-10C

Simply Green, 6002-8C

Deep Mint, 6001-8C
Kubwa Tree

For your Kubwa (which means “large” in Swahili) Tree, start by standing a 2x4 upright in the center of a 5-gallon bucket. Have one person hold the 2x4 in place while another pours the concrete and water into the bucket around the 2x4. Mix the concrete, and use a level to make sure the 2x4 is straight. Measure a length of 1x2 to fit horizontally inside the bucket, cut it to fit, and screw this piece to the 2x4. Wedge another length of 1x4 perpendicular to the first to hold the 2x4 in place while the concrete dries. You will need five buckets of concrete with 2x4s for the skeleton of the tree.

Once the concrete is dry enough to be moved without dislodging the 2x4, it’s time to begin construction of your tree. Lay down a plastic tarp in the area you want your tree to occupy, and move the buckets onto the tarp. We put our tree on one side of the stage at the front of the sanctuary.

Set up the buckets in a half circle with the thin edges of the 2x4s facing out, approximately 32 inches apart. You can make the half circle larger or smaller depending on your available space. At the top of the 2x4s, attach 1x2s between the 2x4s for stability.
Use 2-inch screws to attach a 1x2 “branch” to each 2x4. Attach the branch at about 8 feet and angle it up so that the end is level with the top of the 2x4. There should be approximately 34 inches from the top of the 2x4 to the end of the branch.

Once your tree skeleton is complete, it’s time to add the bark. Cut 10½-foot sheets from a roll of brown craft paper. You will need enough sheets to cover the front side of the half circle. Lay each sheet on the floor and accordion-fold lengthwise. Before unfolding the sheet, crumple it to give it texture. Unfold and staple the top of the sheet to the horizontal 1x2s at the top of the structure. This should go lengthwise from the top of the tree to the floor. Also staple the paper to the vertical 2x4 supports.

Crumple smaller lengths of brown craft paper to cover the branches and to create roots for the bottom of the tree. We created cone “sleeves” to crumple and slide onto the 1x2 branches, then stapled the bottom of the sleeve to the trunk of the tree. The roots are also crumpled lengths of paper attached by staples to the bottom half of the tree.

For extra fun, we added a hole like a doorway in the front of our tree by crumpling and layering 4- to 5-foot lengths of craft paper and stapling them in an arch shape.

To create the leafy part of your tree, cut one long edge of a piece of 4’x8’ cardboard into a wavy treelike edge. You will need four of these. Use the muddling technique to paint the cardboard various shades of green.
Once the paint is dry, lay the sheets of cardboard along the top 1x2s and branches with the green side facing down and the wavy edge facing out. The cardboard sheets will overlap each other slightly. Staple or tape the cardboard to the 1x2s, and attach the cardboard sheets to each other with Cool Connectors.

Crumple sheets of Light and Dark Green Crepe Paper. Tuck these in between the top of the trunk and the green cardboard, and where the cardboard sheets overlap. Then tape more crumpled crepe paper sheets on top and around the edges of the top of the tree. You’ll want to mix the colors and have some crepe paper hanging down over the edge for a leafy look.

Use a mixture of 70 percent brown paint and 30 percent water in a spray bottle to detail the tree trunk with droplets and then run a dry paintbrush over them. Use brown spray paint to highlight and add shading. Be sure to spray the paint from 16 to 18 inches away from the paper and just “kissing” the paper to add shadows where the sun wouldn’t shine on the trunk.

When the paint has dried on your tree, cut away the plastic tarp from underneath. You will recycle this tarp later!
Majestic Rock and Waterfalls

Start by drawing freehand on a 1-inch piece of foam to create a long and somewhat pointy rock outcropping for the top of your majestic rock. Cut out the rock with a hot knife. Then use the cutout rock as a template to trace and cut another rock that is the same. Use 7-inch pieces of scrap foam between the two rock pieces to add depth. Attach the scrap foam to the bottom piece with Great Stuff foam insulation, and then attach the top piece in the same way. Put books on the top piece to help hold the pieces together while the Great Stuff dries, about 30 minutes.

Use different sizes of cardboard boxes to create a rock wall on which the outcropping will sit. We used small, medium, and large boxes from Lowe’s. Assemble the boxes and tape them closed. There is no right or wrong way to stack your boxes because they will be covered with craft paper and won’t show.

Once you have the boxes arranged how you want them, use hot glue to attach the boxes to each other to form one big rock. Cut another box at an angle and attach it on top of the other boxes. This will allow you to attach your rock outcropping to the top at a slight upward angle. Use Great Stuff to securely attach the outcropping.

Accordion-fold different lengths of gray and brown craft paper and crumple them. Unfold and drape over the boxes. Staple the different colors of craft paper around the boxes to make layers of rocks. Cover the rock outcropping at the top tightly with gray paper.
Use a mixture of 70 percent brown paint and 30 percent water in a spray bottle for detailing the rocks with droplets and then run a dry paintbrush over them, as you did for the tree trunk. Use brown spray paint to highlight and add shading. Be sure to spray the paint from 16 to 18 inches away from the paper and just "kissing" the paper to add shadows where the sun wouldn’t shine on the rocks.

To add a waterfall to the front of the majestic rock, tape two paint stir sticks together to make one stick about 21 inches long. Cut a piece of blue cellophane that’s long enough to go from just underneath the rock outcropping to the floor. Bunch and tape one end of the cellophane to the stir sticks. Cut another piece of cellophane the same length, and cut random slits in this piece. Crumple both pieces, and then attach the piece with cuts behind the whole piece. Use hot glue to attach the waterfall to the rock just under the outcropping.

You can also add a waterfall to the side of your majestic rock by following the same instructions.

Create a pond out of blue cellophane in front of your waterfall. (Or you can use Water Fabric, available from group.com, to create your pond.) Your pond should extend out about 10 feet from the rock wall, depending on space. Tape down your pond with packing tape. Then surround the pond with rocks and greenery (read on to find out how to make these!).

**Rocks**

Remember all those plastic tarps you laid down to protect your floor? Well, now you’re going to use them to create rocks! Wad up sections of plastic tarp, and cover them with brown and gray craft paper. Use packing tape to secure the paper on the bottom. Then use the painting techniques you used for the tree trunk and the majestic rock to stipple the rocks (you might want to reserve a bit of tarp to do this on). Make enough rocks of different sizes to surround your pond.
Greenery

In addition to any fake plants or grass that you may already have, you can surround your pond and tree with some wild savanna grass you make yourself. Get several colors of green poster board, and draw freehand some large blades of grass attached along the bottom. Fill up your poster board with these blades. Then cut them out and bend some of the blades slightly so they’re not all standing up straight.

Use scraps of foam to create bases for your greenery. Cut the fronts of several foam scraps in a wavy pattern with a hot knife. Then use small roofing nails to attach the bottom of the poster-board grass to the wavy edge of the foam, with your bent blades facing out.

To hide the nails and add more greenery, we added Tissue Grass Mats in front of the greenery. (Tissue Grass Mats are available from group.com.)
Logo & Finishing Touches

Logo
You have several options for the logo. You can buy the Logo Display and hang it above your set.
Or you can use the logo provided in the Giant Decorating Poster Pack or have a print shop print it to the desired size from the Roar Clip Art & Resources CD. Here’s how to prep the logo:

1. Attach the poster to a sheet of foam core using spray adhesive. To splice foam core sections, hot glue strips of foam core (or alternatively could use lath) at the seams on the back.

2. Spray the front side of the foam core, position the logo, and work out any air bubbles, working from the center out. Use a utility knife to carefully cut around the outlines of the logo.

3. If you are hanging the logo from a light bar or other ceiling fixture, hot glue and duct tape a length of 1” PVC to the back of the logo near the top.

4. Run heavy-duty fishing line through the PVC, adjust the height of the logo above your set, and tie the ends of the fishing line securely.

Bible Memory Buddy Cutouts
1. Use spray adhesive to attach the Bible Memory Buddies from the Giant Bible Memory Buddy Poster Pack to sheets of foam core. Spray the front side of the foam core, position the Buddy, and work out any air bubbles, working from the center out. Use a utility knife to carefully cut around the outlines of the Buddy.

2. To stand the Buddy upright, cut a wedge-shaped piece of foam core, and duct tape it to the back of the Buddy.
Roar Fabric Wall Hanging
1. Set up the pipe-and-drape system at the back of your set at the length to match the number of panels you are using. Weight the bases with media sandbags to keep the poles from falling over.

2. Use zip ties to hang the backdrop with the buttonholes in the fabric.

3. To keep the panels from drooping, tape along the top edge with gaffer’s tape. It is strong enough to hold the vinyl panels but won’t leave a sticky residue. Also wrap the side edges of the outside panels around the pole and fasten with gaffer’s tape.

Finishing the Set
1. Set up the backdrop panels behind the various pieces you’ve built.

2. Place the plants, greenery, and rocks all around your set.

3. Place the Bible Memory Buddy cutouts where desired around the set.

Woo-hoo! You did it! You’re bringing an African savanna to the kids at your church and helping them know that God is good!