

## Constructing the felt background for “Dancing Fires in Missouri River Country”

The key to colors and shapes for these materials is in [key MO River feltboard.pdf](#). Numbers in the instructions below refer to the numbered pieces in the key and black-and-white outlined pieces in the remaining pdf files, as noted below.

### Supplies:

Fabric glue (2-3 bottles)

Black fabric paint

Light blue felt (40" X 92") (background/sky is 40" X 86", and you need a piece 6" X 9" for the compass rose to be attached in upper right sky area)

Dark blue felt (12" X 12") (water, piece 2)

Dark green felt (9" X 31") (foothills, piece 10)

Medium green felt (11" X 16") (high mountain forests, piece 11)

Yellow (6" X 6") (sun, piece 3)

Gray (6" X 6") (rock outcrop, piece 9)

Red (3" X 3") (compass rose)

Brown felt—4 shades

- Rust color for left side of feltboard (~1.25 yd) (piece 8)
- Grayish or light tan for center (~1.7 yd) (piece 7)
- Tan for prairie dog town and right side of feltboard (15" X 27") (pieces 1, 4, & 6)
- Dark brown for mountaintops and anthill (6" X 6") (pieces 12 & 5)

### Steps:

1. Print the numbered, colored key ([key MO River feltboard.pdf](#)) on legal-sized paper.
2. Lay out the light blue felt on a large, flat surface.
3. Trim 6" from one end of the light blue felt to use for the compass rose.
4. Print the compass rose pattern ([pattern compass rose.pdf](#)) on letter-sized paper. Use it to cut out the compass from light blue felt and the red star from red felt. Glue the red piece in the middle. Use black fabric paint to complete the lines and labels. Let the paint dry thoroughly.
5. Use a plotter to print the three large pattern files ([pattern midground.pdf](#), [pattern river leftground.pdf](#), [pattern misc pieces.pdf](#)).
6. Cut out the numbered pattern pieces from the three pattern printouts.
7. Lay the pattern pieces out on fabrics, using the numbers on the printed key to get the right shape and color.
8. Cut the pieces.
9. Lay all pieces out on the blue background to get the composition right. Trim as needed so edges of large pieces meet. Then attach each piece with fabric glue. Glue close to the edges so the pieces won't flop around when the background is hanging on display.
10. Let everything dry thoroughly before rolling up for storage.