



DIY Terrarium

Create your own mini ecosystem!

Materials

- Large, clear-glass container with a lid (bigger is better)
- Sand
- Rocks or pebbles
- Potting soil
- Small house plants
- Moss (optional)
- Decorative items (optional)

Procedure

1. To the bottom of your container, first add rocks or pebbles, then a layer of sand, then a thick layer of potting soil. The size of your container will determine how thick your layers are, but the soil should be thick enough to accommodate the roots of your plants with enough room for your plants to fit comfortably inside the container with the lid on.
2. Add your plants to the soil, covering the roots completely.
3. If using moss, add it to the top of your soil after you add your plants.
4. Decorate your terrarium with figures, rocks, or small toys.
5. Water the soil lightly. If there is water on the leaves of your plants or on the inside of the glass, don't cover it quite yet.
6. Once only the soil is wet, cover your terrarium.

Results

Your terrarium will become a self-contained ecosystem. The oxygen from the plants and humidity inside the jar will create a mini rain cycle.

How?

Choosing small plants that like humidity and low sunlight will mean your plants will thrive in a closed environment. Moisture from the soil will evaporate inside the terrarium to form condensation that will then "rain down" onto the plants. If you notice that the plants are drooping and that the condensation has ceased, give the soil a little bit more water. Terrariums do best in indirect sunlight.

This activity was adapted from alphamom.com.