

HOME/SCHOOL CONNECTION

Investigation 3: Terrariums

In class, we have been growing new plants from seeds and from the stems of some plants. By making a simple, low-maintenance terrarium at home, your child can continue to make plant observations. You could plant the terrarium with rooted stem cuttings, seeds, potatoes (a modified underground stem), or yard transplants. Everything the plants need to live is placed inside the terrarium before it is sealed: water, soil, and air. Placed in a well-lit area, out of the sun, the terrarium plants will live untended for a long time.

Materials

- 1 2-liter plastic bottle
- 1 Scissors
- Soil
- Gravel or pebbles
- Seeds, small plants, or stem cuttings with roots

Directions

1. Remove the label from a 2-liter plastic bottle. Ask an adult to cut the bottle about 10 centimeters from the bottom. Leave the cap on.
2. Cut four 2.5-centimeter slits along the bottom edge of the top part of the bottle.
3. Put a layer of gravel or small pebbles in the plastic base. Add a layer of soil. If you are planting seeds in the terrarium, fill the soil to near the top edge and plant your seeds.
4. Gently place your rooted cutting in the soil and fill more soil in around it.
5. Water the soil. Place the top section of your bottle on the bottom, fitting the slits over the base.
6. Place the terrarium in a well-lit area. Your terrarium plants have everything they need to live and grow.

