

Two Liter Bottle Terrarium

Overview: This craft re-uses a two-liter bottle to create a small terrarium while teaching about plant life cycles and the water cycle.

Time: About 30 minutes

Materials:

Two Liter Bottle
Seeds or seedlings
Soil
Pebbles
Optional – Activated Charcoal and moss

Procedure:

- Cut the two liter bottle about six inches from the bottom.
- Layer your materials as follows: pebbles (1-2 inches), charcoal (1/2 inch), moss (1 inch), and soil (1 inch from top).
- Plant your seeds or seedlings.
- Now slide the top portion of the bottle into the bottom. It may help to cut a slit into the bottom portion.
- Make sure your terrarium gets the proper amount of water and sunlight. The soil should be moist but not wet.

How it works

Once your terrarium is constructed it will have its own water cycle. Excess water collects around the pebbles at the bottom. Heat causes the water to evaporate into the air, and it condenses onto the top of the bottle creating little droplets which fall down like rain. As water drips through the soil, the moss acts as a screen holding the soil in place and the charcoal acts as a filter cleaning the water.

