

Making a Terrarium

Source: Soda Bottle Science

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Need

- clear 2 liter bottle with top cut off 15 cm from the bottom
- clear 2 liter bottle with top cut off 23 cm from the bottom
- small rocks for the bottom
- topsoil
- bird or grass seed
- spray bottle
- sunny windowsill



Directions

1. A terrarium is a model of an environment or biome.
We will provide the elements and observe the effects each have on an environment.
2. Take the shorter of the two soda bottle cylinders and cover the bottom of the bottle to create a flat surface.
3. Cover the small rocks with soil about 3 inches thick.
4. Spread the seeds on top of the soil.
5. Cover the seeds with soil.
6. Spray the top of the soil with water until it just starts to form puddles.
7. Take the taller cylinder and turn it upside down over the one with the soil in it. The larger cylinder should be narrower than the shorter one and push it down until it fits.
8. Observe the terrarium from the side. What elements of the biome—air, water, soil, flora, energy/sun—are represented in the terrarium and what is missing?
9. Place the terrarium on a sunny windowsill.
10. Make a hypothesis or guess of what will happen. Will the seed grow? How long will it take to see the seed grow from the soil?
11. Check it each day for seven days and note any changes that you see. What do you notice on sunny days? Cloudy days? Where do you see the water?

