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ACTIVITY: Build Your Own Piece of Nature

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CHALLENGE

Connect with nature by building a miniature garden in a glass container. You can choose if you want this to live indoors or outdoors. Learn how to care for living plants by making your own terrarium. Use your own toys and decorations to give your terrarium an extra special touch!



MATERIALS

Glass bowl; Potting soil; Small rocks; An assortment of small indoor plants; An assortment of decorations and toys (i.e. toadstool mushrooms, plastic dinosaurs, moss, grassy rocks, craft birds, larger rocks or painted rocks, coloured sand, mini garden gnomes and fairies,)

EXPLORE

Making a terrarium is a great way to practice some responsibility about how to care for living plants and also gives you the creative freedom to make it just how they want. Have fun!

MAKE IT HAPPEN

1. Fill the bottom of your glass bowl with small pebbles—about 2–3 inches high. This allows for proper drainage.
2. Fill the glass bowl with potting soil about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way up.
3. Pick an assortment of small indoor plants and plant 2–3 plants in each terrarium. Leave a small space at the front of the bowl empty so that you can fill it with special decorations of your choice.
4. Place your terrarium in a sunny indoor spot and water when soil becomes dry. Do not over water.

REFLECT

What did you notice when you were building your terrarium? Did you enjoy planting the plants into the soil? Did you have a hard time choosing which plants might be good plants for your terrarium? Did you consider what plants might like a lot of sun and what plants might like a lot of shade? There is a lot to learn about gardening; it is a great way to connect with nature. Research shows that putting our hands in the soil and gardening is very good for our brains, bodies and souls!

ADAPT

You can also create an outdoor terrarium or fairy garden, using outdoor native plants and any of the other materials listed above.

Resource: Adapted from <https://www.cbc.ca/parents/play/view/diy-terrariums-for-kids>