

# Build a Rainforest Terrarium

Terrariums are a great way to create your own ecosystem and watch the effects of water and heat on plant growth.

## MATERIALS NEEDED:

- \*Glass bowl or container with a lid.
- \*Sand
- \*Organic potting soil
- \*Cling wrap
- \*Construction paper (optional, for insect images)
- \*Journal to write down observations



## EXPERIMENT PROCESS:

- \*Start by washing the glass bowl and lid out with soap hot water, making sure to rinse thoroughly.
- \*Begin by adding a layer of about 1/2 inch of sand to the bottom of the bowl.
- \*Next add a layer of about 1 1/2 inches of soil on top of the sand. Ensure each layer is spread evenly and flatly, and that the layers are not stirred or mixed. Two distinct layers should be seen from the side of the glass bowl.
- \*Insert the roots of the fern (or chosen plant) into the soil. Add another 1 inch of dirt to the bowl to ensure the plant is sturdily planted in the soil. The plant should fit completely inside the bowl; trim any additional leaves that may be sticking out of the top.
- \*Slowly add 2-3 cups of water (depending on size of bowl and amount of soil added) to the plant. The soil should be fully saturated.
- \*Securely place cling wrap over the lid of the bowl.
- \*Using the construction paper, cut out small images of insects and use to decorate the bottom outside of the glass.
- \*Place the terrarium in window with partial direct sunlight.
- \*Monitor your miniature rain forest over several weeks, removing the cling wrap once per week to allow fresh air to enter.
- \*Use the journal to observe and write down any changes that happen as well as the growth of the plants.