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Soda Bottle Terrarium

Students can make their own mini-environments with plastic soda bottles, seeds, and small plants. Other materials and the directions are listed below. Small groups may work together on one terrarium or students can build their own individual gardens.

Note: The directions below can be copied and placed at a special center where all the necessary materials and equipment are available. Make a chart and assign center times to the students.

How to Make a Soda Bottle Terrarium

You will need: 1 plastic soda bottle with top cut off

potting soil

grass seed

small plants

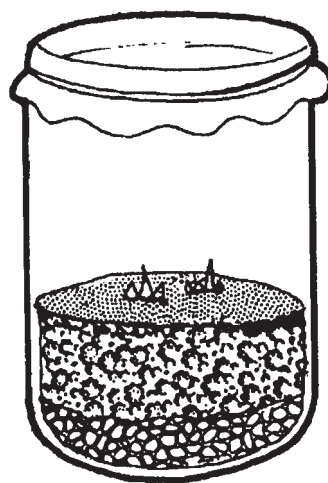
gravel

water

spoon

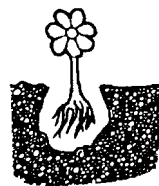
plastic wrap

rubber band



What to do:

- Make a layer of gravel on the bottom of the bottle.
- Spoon the soil into the bottle; fill it about $\frac{1}{3}$ full (see picture above).
- Sprinkle the grass seed on top of the soil.
- Poke a hole in the soil with your finger.
- Put the roots of the plant into the hole.
- Smooth the dirt in and around the hole.
- Water the plants lightly.
- Cover the top of the bottle with plastic wrap.
- Place a rubber band around the plastic wrap to keep it in place.



Follow-up:

- Draw a picture of your terrarium. Label it Day One.
- Observe your garden every day of the week. Draw a picture of any changes you see. Label each change with the day. Use the Changes worksheet (page 33) for your work.

A Food Chain Puzzle

Learn about the Food Chain. Cut out the puzzle pieces below. Glue the pieces together onto a sheet of construction paper. Color the pictures.

