



Ecosystems Activity for Kids

Terrarium DIY

 Duration: **30-60 min**

 Difficulty: **Easy**

 Cost: **\$0 to \$10**

Make your own ecosystem!

Material List

- 1** Large glass jar with a lid
- 1** Piece of mesh
- 1** Pair of scissors
- 1** Handful of rocks or gravel
- 1** Cup of activated carbon available in the aquarium section of a pet store
- 1** Spray bottle of water
- 1** Plants growing in soil choose a type of plant that needs a lot of water
- 1** Moss growing in soil
- 1** Extra soil
- 1** Spoon

Instructions

- 1** Add a 1-inch thick layer of rocks in the jar.
- 2** Add a 1-inch thick layer of activated carbon over the rocks.
- 3** Cut a circle of mesh slightly wider than the inside of the jar and place it on top of the carbon.
- 4** Add a 2-inch layer of soil on top of the mesh.
- 5** Then, add the moss and plants.
- 6** Water the plants generously using the spray bottle.
- 7** Close the lid tightly.
- 8** Watch the ecosystem over time.

How It Works

A terrarium is a closed environment of living things that can show us how an ecosystem works. With the right balance, once the jar is closed the plant uses the water, sunlight, and nutrients from the soil to survive. As the plant loses some leaves, they are broken down by bacteria and become nutrients in the soil. With the right balance, the ecosystem inside the terrarium can survive for years.