

Make a terrarium mini garden

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Overall aims:

- Build a miniature garden or forest;
- Develop senses;
- Engaging with nature.

2

Vocabulary - keywords

Terrarium, garden, plants, environment.

3

Sustainable abilities developed

- Strategic competency;
- Critical thinking competency.

4

Pillars of sustainability included

- Environmental sustainability

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STEAM domains

- Science;
- Art.

6

Teaching methodologies/activity outline

Before the experiment:

First, you want all the plants to thrive in the same kind of environment. For example, you could plant all succulents (including cactus), because they need very little water. Or you could plant all ferns, because they like it moist. You could put moss with the ferns, because moss likes it moist too. If you put a fern with a cactus, one or the other might not do well (the fern if it gets too dry, the cactus if it gets too wet).

You can use an open container or a closed container.

An open container is best for succulents and cacti. They like lots of air.

What to do:



Co-funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union

This project has been funded with support from the European Commission. This publication reflects the views only of the authors, and the Commission cannot be held responsible for any use which may be made of the information contained therein.

1. Start with a layer of rocks, about one inch or so, at the bottom of your container. These will help the soil drainage, so the roots of your plants won't get water-logged.
2. Add a 1/2-inch-thick layer of charcoal.
3. Fill the container up to half-full with potting soil.
4. Plant your plants. When you remove them from their little pots, carefully tease the roots apart and remove some of the old soil so they will fit nicely in the terrarium. Arrange them to look nice. Leave some space for them to breathe and grow. Pat down the soil so they don't get uprooted easily.
5. Add decorative pebbles, rocks, pine cones, or whatever to make your terrarium look like a little garden world.
6. Water the plants, but not too much.
7. Place in indirect light.

7

Expected learning outcomes

The child will be able to:

- Follow instructions;
- Develop the ability to observe;
- Make a terrarium mini garden;
- Identify plants that can thrive in the same kind of environment.

8

Assessment

The evaluation is implemented through observation of the activity by the teacher who assesses pupils' commitment and participation.

9

Equipment and materials to be used in learning unit (tools, ingredients etc)

- Clear glass container. For example, aquarium of any size, goldfish bowl, cookie jar, pickle jar, vase with a broad bottom, brandy snifter, or even a shallow dish with a glass bowl turned upside-down over it.
- Rocks (around marble sized, depending on the size of container)
- Activated charcoal to filter the water and help prevent growth of fungi
- Potting Soil (sterilized)
- Small plants of different colors, shapes, & textures. Try to get miniature plants that aren't going to grow too big for the container.
- Optional:
 - Moss
 - Decorative rocks or pebbles, or both



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fun décor, like tiny pine cones, shells, ceramic animals, or a garden gnome.
10	Kind of setting - lab, kitchen, outdoor etc. Indoor, outdoor
11	References - source: https://climatekids.nasa.gov/mini-garden/

