



GROWING A TERRARIUM

with Moss and Small Plants

A terrarium is a mini ecosystem inside a container. You will build your own and observe how the plants, water, and environment work together to help it thrive.

1. PURPOSE

To build a terrarium and observe how water, soil, and plants interact in a small, closed environment.

2. MATERIALS

- Clear glass or plastic container with lid (jar or terrarium)
- Small rocks or gravel
- Activated charcoal (optional, helps keep water clean)
- Potting soil
- Moss
- Small plants (fittonia, baby tears, fern, or other tiny plants)
- Spray bottle with water
- Tweezers or spoon (optional)
- Decorative items (small stones, wood, figurines – optional)

3. PROCEDURE

1. Add a layer of small rocks or gravel (about 1 inch) to the bottom of the container.
2. (Optional) Add a thin layer of activated charcoal over the rocks.
3. Add a layer of potting soil (about 2–3 inches deep).
4. Arrange your moss and small plants in the soil.
5. Water lightly using a spray bottle.
6. Add any decorative items you like.
7. Place the lid on the container.
8. Put your terrarium in a spot with bright, indirect light.
9. Observe and care for your terrarium over the next few weeks.

4. OBSERVATIONS

Record your observations over the next few weeks.

Date	What do you see? (plants, water, soil, etc.)	How much water did you add?	Notes / Changes



TERRARIUM CARE TIPS



- Do not overwater. If you see lots of condensation on the glass, leave the lid off for a while.
- Water only when the soil looks dry.
- Keep in bright, indirect light.
- Trim plants if they grow too tall.
- Enjoy watching your mini ecosystem grow!

5. QUESTIONS

1. What happened to the water inside the terrarium?

2. How do you think the plants get the water they need?

3. What role does the lid play in the terrarium?

4. What changes did you notice over time?

5. What did you learn from this experiment?



THINK LIKE A SCIENTIST!

A terrarium is a closed ecosystem. The water cycle (evaporation, condensation, and collection) helps the plants survive.

Scientist: _____ Date Started: _____

Date Finished: _____