



HOMESCHOOL SCIENCE LAB SHEET

MAKING A TERRARIUM WITH DESERT PLANTS

Name: _____

Date: _____

Age/Grade: _____



LAB QUESTION

How can we create a mini desert ecosystem that supports plant life?



WHAT IS A TERRARIUM?

A terrarium is a mini ecosystem in a glass container. Desert terrariums use dry-loving plants and well-draining soil to create a habitat that mimics the desert.



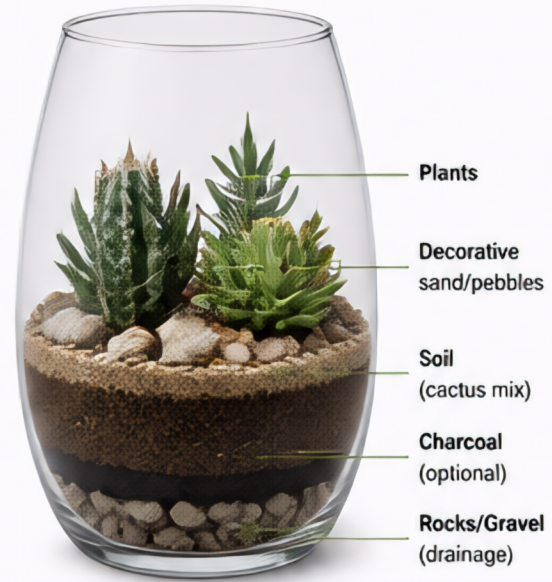
MATERIALS

- Glass container (with opening) (e.g., jar, bowl, or vase)
- Small rocks or gravel
- Activated charcoal (optional)
- Cactus potting mix or sandy soil
- Desert plants (e.g., small cactus, succulent, or air plant)
- Decorative sand or small pebbles
- Small decorations (optional) (e.g., rocks, driftwood)
- Spoon or scoop
- Spray bottle with water
- Tongs (optional)



PROCEDURE

- 1 Start with a clean, dry glass container.
- 2 Add a 1–2 inch layer of small rocks or gravel to the bottom for drainage.
- 3 (Optional) Add a thin layer of activated charcoal to help keep the terrarium fresh.
- 4 Add a 2–3 inch layer of cactus potting mix or sandy soil.
- 5 Remove desert plants from their pots and gently shake off extra soil. Use a spoon or tongs to place the plants in the terrarium.
- 6 Arrange the plants so they have space and look balanced.
- 7 Add decorative sand, pebbles, and rocks. Place any small decorations.
- 8 Lightly mist the plants and soil with water.
Do not overwater!



LIGHT

Place in a bright spot with indirect sunlight. Desert plants need lots of light!



WATER

Mist lightly every 2–4 weeks or when soil is completely dry. Desert plants store water, so less is more!



TEMPERATURE

Keep in room temperature between 60–85°F (16–29°C). Avoid extreme cold or heat.



CARE TIPS

Watch your terrarium. If you see mold or excess moisture, open the lid (if any) or reduce watering.



OBSERVE & RECORD

Observe your terrarium over the next few weeks. Write or draw your observations.

Date:

What does your terrarium look like today?

Date:

How do the plants look? (Healthy, dry, growing?)

Date:

Do you see any moisture, mold, or changes?

Date:

What did you learn?



THINK & REFLECT

- What is one thing your terrarium needs to survive? _____
- How is a desert terrarium different from a rainforest terrarium? _____
- What would happen if you added too much water? _____



EXTEND YOUR LEARNING

Research other desert plants. How do they survive in hot, dry places?

