

## **BC SRC 2017: Walk on the Wild Side!**

### **Tween Program, Theme 2: Explora the Flora**

Do-it-yourself Terrariums

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### **SUPPLIES**

-Glass Containers\*

-Active Charcoal\*\*

-Small Pebbles

-Soil

-Live Moss and/or Small Plants (ground clover works well)

-Accessories (little figurines, glass beads, rocks, sticks, etc.)

\*Spice jars, shot glasses, or really any small container work (lids can be left on or not)

\*\*You can find this at Walmart or in most plant stores. If you cannot find this ingredient you can still do this activity just use sand instead.

### **INSTRUCTIONS**

Step One: Prepare the Container

-remove any sticker or tag and thoroughly wash out the container

This is to avoid contaminates that may affect the health of your plants

Step Two: Add Your Drainage Layers

-fill the bottom with pebbles (1/2' to 2')

This is to allow water to settle without drowning the plants

Step Three: Add the Active Charcoal

-Add just enough to cover the pebbles

This reduces bacteria, fungi, odor, and helps with drainage

Step Four: Add Soil

-Add at least 2' of soil

-Pack the soil down well to ensure that no air pockets form

Step Five: Plant

-Trim the roots if they are very long (they will grow back)

Step Six: Add Accessories

-Wash any man-made materials that you would like to add

This is your opportunity to make your little world unique

Step Seven: Clean and Water

-Wipe down the sides

-Add a bit of water (don't soak the plants)

A spray bottle might work better if your terrarium is small

## **TIPS AND TRICKS**

- Over time, monitor your terrarium's water needs based on how dry the soil is. For terrariums with closed lids, if water is dripping down from the top, open the lid to let some evaporate. Likewise, you may need to add more if it looks parched. You shouldn't need to water them very often.
- If leaves die or wilt, remove them from the terrarium immediately to maintain the health of the little eco system. If an entire plant dies, take it out.
- Don't place in direct sunlight. Remember that these are essentially little greenhouses and direct sunlight through the glass will trap heat and scorch the plants. Place in indirect light for best results.

## **RESOURCES**

<http://inhabitat.com/diy-how-to-make-your-own-green-terrarium-to-keep-or-give-away-for-the-holidays/>

<https://corporate.target.com/article/2014/04/earth-day-craft-diy-terrarium>

***The Terrarium: Setting up and Maintaining a Terrarium Made Easy*** by Jes, Harold (639.39 JES)

***Terrariums: Gardens Under Glass: Designing, Creating, and Planting Modern Indoor Gardens*** by Colletti, Maria (635.9824 COL)