

Terrariums

Students will learn about closed environments

Time Frame: About 30 minutes

Need enough for each child:

- Potting soil
- Small rock or gravel (such as for an aquarium)
- Small plants
- Empty plastic bottle with screw-on lid (should be 32-oz or larger)
- Water mister
- Moist towelettes
- Newspapers (optional)

Prep: Cut each bottle in half about halfway up. (My husband used a band saw to do this). Use scissors or shears to cut 3-4 vertical 1" slits along the edges of the bottle tops.

At the site: Cover the work area with newspapers. Give each student a bottle. Each student should place some gravel in the bottom of their bottle, followed by potting soil to within about an inch of the top. Place a plant in the soil, and tamp down lightly. Mist lightly with water. Place the top of the bottle on, using the slits cut earlier to overlap it over the bottom. Wipe hands with towelettes.





Plant respiration should fog the inside of the bottle within a matter of minutes. If they keep the tops on, they should not need to water their plant; it will provide its own moisture. Plants should be kept out of direct sunlight.

Thanks to Marsha Butterworth in Hardin County for sharing this idea with me.