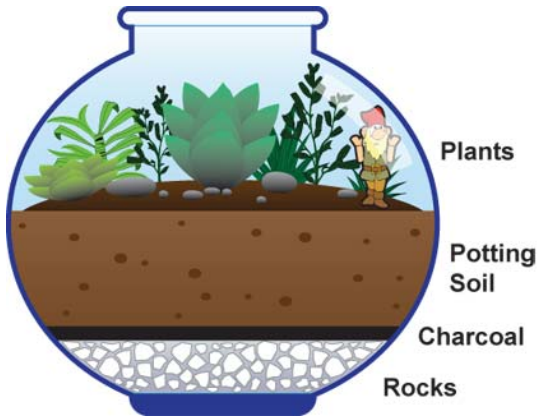


# TERRARIUM - BUILDING - MAY 2025



A terrarium is like an aquarium, but for plants instead of fish. It is made in just about any glass container. It is planted to look like a miniature garden or forest enclosed in its own little world.

You can easily make a beautiful terrarium yourself. 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 (sealed) container.

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

A closed, or sealed, container (with a lid) might be best for ferns, ivies, and begonias. They like it humid. But if you see a lot of water condensing on the lid, remove it for a while, then replace it.

For any terrarium, you need:

- 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 (if making an open terrarium, you won't need this)
- Potting Soil (sterilized is recommended)
- 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
- Fun décor, like tiny pine cones, shells, ceramic animals, or a garden gnome.

Make sure your glass container is clean and shiny.

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. Add a 1/2-inch-thick layer of charcoal.

Fill the container up to half-full with potting soil.

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.

Add decorative pebbles, rocks, pine cones, or whatever to make your terrarium look like a little garden world.

Water the plants, but not too much. Place in indirect light.

\*Adapted from Climate Kids, NASA.gov

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Check out the world's oldest terrarium - <https://thenatureofhome.com/worlds-oldest-terrarium-david-latimer/>. It hasn't been watered since 1972!!!

Deadline to submit your Terrarium Building Monthly Challenge:  
Saturday, May 31, 2025, at 5:00 PM MST.

Submit report at: [https://bit.ly/Terrarium\\_May2025](https://bit.ly/Terrarium_May2025)

You will receive your patch in 3 - 4 weeks after the end of challenge.

If you have any questions, please email [info@gsdsw.org](mailto:info@gsdsw.org).