

Mini Ecosystem in a Bottle

You will need:

- a transparent plastic drinks bottle or jar with a lid
- soil
- grass seeds
- a variety of seeds e.g. bean seeds, or mixed seed packet
- sticky tape

Method

1. If using the drinks bottle, cut the neck of the bottle off, just as it widens to the width of the bottle. Cut carefully as plastic can be sharp.
2. Fill the bottle about 10cms deep with soil. Try not to press it in.
3. Plant the bean seeds approximately an inch into the soil.
4. Plant some of the other seeds, leaving the grass seed until the end.
5. Lightly sprinkle some of the grass seeds over the surface of the soil.
6. Lightly cover them with soil.
7. Sprinkle water over the soil. Try not to soak it through but make sure the water trickles to the bottom of the bottle.
8. With the cap attached to the top of the cut off bottle, turn the top upside down and place, like a funnel, inside the bottle.
9. Seal the edges with the sticky tape.
10. Place in a warm sunny place and observe what happens. Record your observations on the Mini Ecosystem Recording Sheet.

Note: If you are using a jar with a lid, at Step 2 fill the jar with the soil and when complete, screw the lid on at Step 8. Be careful when handling glass.

