

Making a terrarium

Adapted from <http://crafts.kaboose.com/terrarium.html> (where extra, step-by-step photos can be found)

How to make a terrarium

You can plant just about any kind of seed in this terrarium. People love to see the plants growing.

What you'll need:

- Plastic 2 litre pop bottle with cap
- Very sharp scissors or craft knife
- Dirt or potting soil
- Seeds
- Water



How to make it:

- Remove the label from the bottle. Discard label. Save cap!
- Wash and rinse out the bottle and cap.
- Cut the bottle close to the bottom.
- There may be a "line" near the end of where the label was. That's a good place to cut. You can cut it higher if you wish.
- Lightly place dirt or potting soil in the base.
- Plant a few seeds in the dirt.
- Lightly water.
- Put the cap on the bottle.
- Cover the base with the top of the bottle. You will have to fiddle with it a bit to fit back inside the base.
- Place in a sunny spot and watch for your seeds to grow.
- When the plants are ready, repot them or plant them in your garden.

Tips:

- If your soil starts to look a little dry before your seeds come up, you can unscrew the cap and insert the head of a spray bottle of water. Spray several squirts into the terrarium.
- This project can also be done with individual sized water bottles. Don't plant more than two seeds in a small bottle like this or they will be overcrowded and won't grow.

Name _____ Date _____



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Task 1

Answer the questions.

- 1) What do you need to make a terrarium?

- 2) What size bottle should you use?

- 3) What do you use a terrarium for?

- 4) How much money would it cost you to make a terrarium?

- 5) What do you need to do to the bottle?

- 6) What do you need to put inside the bottle?

- 7) Where should you keep the bottle?

- 8) Can you make a terrarium from a smaller water bottle?

- 9) If you make a smaller terrarium what do you need to remember?

- 10) Would you like to make a terrarium?

Name _____ Date _____



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Task 2

Answer **true** or **false** to these questions.

- 1) A terrarium is see-through.
- 2) A terrarium costs lots of money to buy.
- 3) A terrarium can be made from an empty coke bottle.
- 4) You need soil to make a terrarium.
- 5) You need seeds to make a terrarium.
- 6) The bottle needs to be kept in the dark.
- 7) The seeds need water to grow.
- 8) The bottle needs to be cut to make a terrarium.
- 9) The soil must be kept dry.
- 10) You can try this with smaller bottles too.

Name _____ Date _____



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Writing tasks

1) What are your favourite flowers?

Find a picture of them on the computer and describe them in a few sentences.

2) Write a set of instructions for someone about how to do something.

Type it up on the computer and find some pictures from the computer to add to your writing.

Check your work carefully.

Reading and writing letters

Teaching notes | Curriculum links



Notes: Task 3 requires knowledge of Functional Writing Criteria to mark (see below).

Functional English and ICT criteria (relevant areas are highlighted below but exact coverage will depend on the learner group and how the resource is used by the tutor).

Entry 2 Skill standard	Entry 2 Coverage and range Ofqual (2009), p7.
Speaking, listening and communication Participate in discussions/exchanges about familiar topics, making active contributions, with one or more people in familiar situations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identify the main points of short explanations and instructions Make appropriate contributions that are clearly understood Express simply feelings or opinions and understand those expressed by others Communicate information so that the meaning is clear Ask and respond to straightforward questions Follow the gist of discussions
Reading Read and understand straightforward texts that explain, inform or recount information	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Understand the main events in chronological texts Read and understand simple instructions and directions Read and understand high frequency words and words with common spelling patterns Use knowledge of alphabetical order to locate information
Writing Write short texts with some awareness of the intended audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use written words and phrases to record and present information Construct compound sentences using common conjunctions Punctuate correctly, using upper and lower case, full stops and question marks Spell correctly all high frequency words and words with common spelling patterns
Entry 2 Functional Skills ICT criteria Ofqual (2009), p3.	
Using ICT 1. Interact with ICT for a purpose 2. Follow recommended safe practices	1.1 Use computer hardware 1.2 Use software applications for a given purpose 1.3 Recognise and use interface features 2.1 Minimise physical stress 2.2 Keep access information secure by using password 2.3 Understand the need to stay safe
Finding and selecting information 3. Use ICT-based sources of information 4. Find specified information from ICT-based sources	4.1 Use simple search facilities
Developing, presenting & communicating information 5. Enter and edit information for a simple given purpose 6. Bring together two given types of information 7. Use ICT-based communication	5.1 use simple editing and formatting techniques 6.1 For print and for viewing on-screen 6.2 Identify and correct simple errors 7.1 Read, send and receive electronic messages

References: Ofqual (2009), *Functional Skills criteria for English: Entry 1, Entry 2, Entry 3, level 1 and level 2.*
 Ofqual (2009), *Functional Skills criteria for ICT: Entry 1, Entry 2, Entry 3, level 1 and level 2.*
<http://www.ofqual.gov.uk/qualification-and-assessment-framework/89-articles/238-functional-skills-criteria>

Adult Literacy curriculum: covers many Entry 2 curriculum elements – visit the download page for this resource on www.skillsworkshop.org for further curriculum links.

To obtain an editable Word version of this resource: upload and share your own resources at www.skillsworkshop.org THANK YOU