

MAKE A BUG TERRARIUM

WHAT YOU WILL NEED

1. Jam Jar or Old Aquarium or Large Clear Plastic Bowl
2. Clingfilm (optional)
3. Cotton Wool
4. Handful of gravel or sand
5. Handful of small pebbles
6. Garden Soil
7. Colourful Rocks or large pebbles
8. Leaves
9. Twigs
10. Banana peeling or egg shells and old apples
11. Lolly stick and cardboard (optional)
12. Bugs!



If you really want to get to know bugs better, there is no better way to spy on the little creatures by creating your very own bug terrarium for your bedroom. But remember, these are living creatures so need looking after!

STEP 1

Clean out your Jam Jar or whatever you have decided to use to spy on your bugs! Then fill first with a layer of sand; small pebbles then some of your own garden soil about one quarter full.

Top Tip: For our terrarium, we have used a plastic bowl £1 from the pound shop which is great as it is cheap and looks like a goldfish bowl. As this one doesn't have a lid, we will have to improvise and make a lid with cling-film taped around the top.



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STEP 2

Now add some branches and leaves to give your bugs shady spot or build a nest out of plants and sticks. Also, if you are planning on finding some beetles and other bugs this will be a source of food.

STEP 3

Go bug hunting! Go to an area with dirt and dig a hole with a shovel. Keep looking through the soil for underground bugs. You will most likely find earthworms, especially after it has rained. Put the worms in your prepared terrarium. Now that you have worms and possibly some other bugs you found in the soil, look for bugs in other places. Scan the outside walls of your play house and tree trunks. You may also find insects crawling on any surface of the ground. Bugs are everywhere, you just have to look. Pill bugs, beetles, ants, millipedes, and mantis will work fine. Place the bugs in the soil. Let them explore a little once they're in.



STEP 4

Decorate! You don't want a boring terrarium, do you? Neither do the bugs! Add some colourful rocks, leaves, and twigs.

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STEP 5

Add a sign on the terrarium saying something like “Bugville” or “Insect Paradise” if you want.



STEP 6

Make sure the bugs have food and water. If you only have worms, the soil is their food. Add some food scraps like banana peels, egg shells, and apples. This way the worms will have something to decompose and turn into compost. Leaves, plants, and wood should feed other bugs. Try to get leaves from the plants where you found the bugs. Make sure they have enough water too, moisten the soil and add a water by soaking cotton balls in water.

If your Terrarium didn't come with a lid – an easy way to keep your bugs inside is cover the roof of your Jam Jar or Bowl with Clingfilm and pop a couple of air holes in the top with a pencil.

Have fun! Take care of the insects and check on them now and again. You can keep them outside in your backyard or inside in your bedroom, it's your choice. Always ensure they have plenty of food and water.