

*Raven Hill Discovery Center is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt corporation.*

**Mission:** Raven Hill provides a place that enhances hands-on and lifelong learning for all ages by connecting science, history & the arts.

## Terrariums

A terrarium is glass container containing soil and plants. It can be closed OR open. Terraria or terrariums are often kept for decoration and fun to observe. The transparent glass walls allow heat and light to enter. A sealed terrarium creates a water cycle. The moisture evaporates in the higher temperatures and then condenses on the walls of the container, eventually falling back to the plants and soil below. The light that passes through the clear glass or plastic of the terrarium and allows the plants to photosynthesize or make food so they can grow. The first terrarium was created by Nathaniel Bagshaw Ward in 1842. Ward studied insect behavior. A fern plant grew in one of his insect containers and this was the first terrarium. Back then, terrariums were known as Wardian cases. Terrariums can also called bottle gardens, especially, if a narrow-neck bottle is used. Terrariums and bottle gardens can be used to study miniature eco-systems. To make yours, find an empty glass or plastic jar. Clean well. Place pebbles in bottom for drainage. Add soil. You can angle it higher in the back or make it level. Plant small plants you have found outside, like mosses or thyme. Add decorative rocks, if you want. Water the plants a little and put the lid on. Place it so it gets light, but not in direct sun. Watch the water cycle happen. Look for your plants to settle in & grow. Maybe you will even see an insect, who came in with the plants.



1 Supplies



2 Pebbles in bottom



3 Add soil



4 Plant plants & decorative rocks.



5 Water a little & close