

### **Creating a Terrarium**

Supplies:      container                      charcoal  
                  gravel                                potting soil  
                  plants

1. Choose a container that has a cover, a bottle that can be covered or corked, a cloche or bell with a base or a fish tank that can be covered with glass.
2. Select plants suitable for your container; small plants for small containers, tall plants for tall containers, etc. Give plants some space to grow but use enough to make it look semi-full. Select plants that are slow-growing, have shallow roots and love humidity and low light. Some examples of appropriate plants: all ferns, Hypocyrta (polka dot plant), Mimosa (sensitive plant), Prayer Plant, Baby Tears, Moss, Bromeliad, Fittonia, Ruellia (monkey plant) and African Violet.

3. Building your terrarium

Start with a 1/2 inch layer of charcoal, 1/2 inch layer of gravel and a layer of moist potting soil deep enough for the roots of the plants you have selected. Arrange plants on top of soil to see where you want them before planting, then plant. Trim any leaves that touch the glass, mist the plants and top of soil. Cover the container - if the container fogs up, remove the cover for a day.

### **Terrarium Care**

*All terrariums should be checked daily.*

For terrariums with tops (closed containers):

If the soil is moist or if there is standing water at the bottom of the container, do not mist the terrarium.

If the soil is dry, lightly mist both soil and plants.

If the terrarium fogs up, remove or open the lid or cork for a day or two.

For open terrariums:

When soil becomes dry on top, both plants and soil should be misted heavily.

Feeding:

Terrarium gardens don't require frequent feed. Use a liquid product at half strength once monthly from March through September.