

TRB 3:2 - Investigation 3 - Terrariums / Aquariums

Summary

Creating aquariums/terrariums help students understand how creatures depend on living and nonliving things.

Group Size

Small Groups

Materials

Materials for Pre_Assessment / Invitation to Learn

small creatures

hand lens

Materials for Instructional Procedures

Handouts:

- [Creature Information](#) (pdf)
- [Terrariums and Aquariums](#) (pdf)
- containers for terrariums
- soil
- plants
- seeds
- stones and sticks
- leaf letter
- spray bottles

Background for Teachers

Your students will become excited and engaged as they observe and care for small creatures such as crickets, meal worms, pill bugs, earth worms, snails, fish, etc. Many of these fascinating creatures can be easily obtained and kept in the classroom. Information and suggestions for some of these creatures are provided on the [Creature Information](#) (pdf) pages. Read through these sheets and chose a creature for your classroom.

Terrariums and aquariums can be made in many different ways using a wide variety of materials. See the [Terrariums and Aquariums](#) (pdf) pages for ideas on using terrariums and aquariums with your class.

Intended Learning Outcomes

Science

1. Use Science Process and Thinking Skills
4. Communicate Effectively Using Science Language and Reasoning.

Instructional Procedures

Extensions

Math-

Students will use measurement to learn the size of their small creatures. (*Standard IV, Objective 2*)

Language Arts-

Have students ask, "I wonder" questions, such as "I wonder if worms can crawl backwards?" or "I wonder if pill bugs like light or dark places?" Next, have them do activities or research to find out the answers to the questions. (*Standard VII, Objective 3*)

Homework & Family Connections

Have the students make terrariums at home. Let them put plants and any small animals they want in them. Have the students write down any observations they notice happening in their terrariums each day.

Some students may want to make an aquarium. They can put any fish and water creatures in they would like. Have the students write down any observations they notice about the fish and water creatures each day.

Assessment Plan

Use student's observation sheets to determine if they understand what is happening in their terrariums.

Authors

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