



Build Your Own Ecosystem!

We have talked and read about so many ecosystems.
Now it is time to build your own!

COLLECT THE FOLLOWING MATERIALS:

- Gravel or small rocks
- Soil/dirt
- A jar or bottle (with a large enough top to put your hand into)
- A lid for your jar or bottle to seal it
(you can seal it with tape if you think air can get into the jar)
- A few plants from the school yard or a garden
- Small animals from the garden
(worms, snails, slugs, etc.)
- Wood, garden rocks or branches to make it look like a real ecosystem



WHAT YOU WILL DO:

1. Put a large handful of gravel or small rocks in the bottom of your jar.
2. Add a large handful of soil.
3. Plant the plants into the soil. Try to choose plants that fit into your jar. If it's a small jar, only use small plants. If you put too many plants in, they will not survive!
4. If you think your ecosystem needs water, add a bit of water. Don't over water your ecosystem though!
5. **This is the fun bit...** choose some animals. Use anything you can find in the school yard or garden. Remember, choose small animals. You want these animals to survive!
6. Close your ecosystem. Put the lid on or use tape to seal it.

Now it's time to record your observations!

ON A PIECE OF PAPER, record the following things:

- Size of your container (you may want to draw a picture of your ecosystem)
- Number and type of plants and animals you used
- How much soil you used
- What is happening in your system? Count your animals and record if your plants are growing. Have all of your plants and animals survived?

Have fun building your own ecosystem!