



# ALL ABOUT TERRARIUMS!

## UNDERSTANDING YOUR OWN MINI ECOSYSTEM

### WHAT IS A TERRARIUM?

A terrarium is a collection of plants in a contained ecosystem where you can watch many natural processes take place.

### PARTS OF A CLOSED-SYSTEM TERRARIUM



An **open-system terrarium** uses a container with a wide opening. This creates less humid conditions perfect for plants that typically grow in drier areas.

A **closed-system terrarium** uses a closed or nearly closed container. This creates more humid conditions perfect for moisture-loving plants. These terrariums typically require less watering and are easy to maintain.

#### 1. Drainage Layer

A drainage layer creates a space for excess water so it doesn't collect in the soil and harm the plant roots.

#### 2. Soil Barrier

A soil barrier prevents the soil from falling into the drainage layer and clogging it.

#### 3. Growing Medium

The growing medium is the soil for your plants to form roots.

#### 4. Plants and Decorations

# TERRARIUM TERMS



## ECOSYSTEM:

A community of living things interacting with each other and with their environment.



## HABITAT:

The natural home or environment of a living thing.



## PHOTOSYNTHESIS:

The process plants use to make their own food using water, sunlight, and carbon dioxide.



## SELF-SUSTAINING:

When the elements of an ecosystem coexist in a balance where they are all able to survive without external care.



## FOOD CHAIN:

Describes one path of how living things get their food. Usually, food chains begin with plants which make their own food.



## FOOD WEB:

Describes multiple paths of how living things get their food. Food webs show how living things in an ecosystem, or part of an ecosystem, are connected through food.



## ENERGY FLOW:

In an ecosystem, the energy flow describes how energy flows from the sun through all the living things.



## WATER CYCLE:

The continuous path water takes as it moves around the planet through different stages.

