



Greater Des Moines Botanical Garden

Exploring, explaining and celebrating the world of plants

Addressed Learning Standards

Tropical Terrariums

Terrariums can be a sealed or open container filled with soil and tropical plants. Botanist and doctor Nathaniel Bagshaw Ward developed the first terrarium in 1842. Ward had an interest in observing insect behavior and accidentally left one of the jars unattended. A fern spore in the jar grew, germinated into a plant, and the terrarium was born.

Grade level:

4th-6th

Format:

Class
Activity

Subjects:

Earth Science
Life Science
Plant Science

Next Generation Science Standards:

5-LS1-1

Support an argument that plants get the materials they need for growth chiefly from air and water.

5-ESS2-2

Describe and graph the amounts and percentages of water and fresh water in various reservoirs to provide evidence about the distribution of water on Earth.

MS-ESS2-1

Develop a model to describe the cycling of water through Earth's systems driven by energy from the sun and force of gravity.