

Activity: Create the Whole Water Cycle (*Building a Terrarium*)

Materials needed:

- A package of seeds e.g. marigold or pea
- A plastic container e.g. small like you can get at the grocery for salad.
- Container for pouring water.
- Potting soil

Check with your local water department as they may have the materials for a terrarium they will give you.

Pre-Lab Discussion Questions

1. Prior to building the terrarium discuss the following questions:
 - How do all of the parts of the water cycle fit together?
 - What would happen if one part was left out?

Procedure:

1. Review the water cycle boogie and then have the students do it.
2. Explain that each student will get to build or have their own terrarium to observe the water cycle.
3. Provide each student with a small plastic container which can be covered tightly with either a clear lid or plastic wrap.
4. Have each student put soil in the bottom, put a plant seed in the soil, and lightly water the soil.
5. Cover the terrarium with the lid or plastic wrap and place in a location where it can get sunshine.

Post-Lab Discussion Questions

1. After building the terrarium:
 - Observe what happens to the water in this closed container and help the students observe and describe the different parts of the water cycle they see in the terrarium.
 - Keep track of your observations in a science journal. Each day look for the following things:
 - What is the seed doing?
 - On which parts of the terrarium do you see water?
 - What new is happening in your terrarium today?

