



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.

