

INSPIRATION SHEET: Miniature Woodland Garden

What you need

Container e.g. a seed tray or deep baking tray

Soil or compost

Natural materials e.g. twigs, leaves, stones, flowers, moss or gravel

Small plants or cuttings e.g. succulents, rockery plants or herbs such as thyme

Seeds e.g. cress, grass or herbs

Craft materials e.g. cocktail sticks, lollipop sticks, coffee stirrers, small pieces of fabric, paper, card, glue, string, wire, modelling clay, foil, small mirrors, bottle tops or jar lids

Optional accessories e.g. dolls house furniture, animal or dinosaur figures, Lego buildings and characters

Instructions:

1. Draw a picture or plan of how you would like your finished miniature garden to look.
2. If you want to grow live plants in your miniature garden, make sure that you have some drainage holes in the bottom of your container.
3. Fill your container with compost/soil to create a base for your garden. Make a small mound of compost/soil if you would like a hill in your garden. Gently pat down the compost/soil.
4. Add the plants into your garden, starting with your bigger plants first. Make a hole in the compost/soil, put the plant in the hole and firm the compost/soil around its roots. For cuttings, use your finger to make a hole before placing the cutting in and firming the compost/soil around it. Moss makes a perfect miniature lawn!
5. Sow seeds directly onto the compost/soil. Sprinkle a thin layer of compost/soil over the top.
6. Gently water your seeds and plants. You may want to use a fine spray to avoid disturbing your seeds.
7. Build your paths, buildings, ponds and fences. Gravel makes good paths. Twigs or lollipop sticks are good for building fences, sheds, bridges or dens. Buried bottle tops and jar lids make good ponds.
8. You may want to make some accessories for your garden. How about a bench or small shed? You could make some mini garden tools. If you are going to keep your garden outside, your accessories need to be waterproof.
9. Add some accessories into your garden if you would like. For example, some dolls house furniture, model animals or Lego characters.
10. Keep your miniature garden on a windowsill or in a sheltered spot in the garden.
11. Regularly water your garden. You may need to keep a tray underneath to catch the drips.

There are lots of different types of miniature gardens on the internet - look at these links for some ideas.

<https://schoolgardening.rhs.org.uk/Resources/Activity/Enchanting-miniature-gardens>

<https://nurturestore.co.uk/how-to-make-a-miniature-garden>

<https://www.childrensgardeningweek.co.uk/things-to-do/make-a-mini-garden/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t2PTE5Js9Lk>

<https://www.instructables.com/Miniature-Garden-For-Beginners/>

Don't forget though that your garden for the Summer Show this year should have a woodland theme.





