



Growing moss

HOW TO CREATE YOUR ELEMENTS

Disclaimer: taking wild moss is prohibited in many countries. If you have a doubt on your country's policy, we recommend you to buy commercial moss in your local plant retailer.

STORAGE

The moss inside the box is a vegetal that needs a bit of light, but never direct light: the light would warm the box too much and kill the moss.

Besides that, dry moss can be recovered so feel free to use it!

CRAFT THE ELEMENTS

A. Dry moss to rehydrate

For activities requiring dry moss to observe the rehydration effect, you could use the moss directly you picked up from the retailer: it is sold dry! Just spray some water on it.

B. Create a moss terrarium

For this, you will need:

- A transparent box (plastic or glass) and its cover
- Enough gravel to do one layer of 1 to 2 cm deep
- A carbon fiber mesh, sized on your box dimension (optional)
- Enough charcoal to do one thin layer (optional)
- Some substrate/soil



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SCIENCES

- A water spray without chlorine or chemical product. You can use rain water.
- Several patches of moss

To create your moss terrarium:

1. Clean your box then add a layer of gravel on the bottom (1 to 2 cm)
2. Add the carbon fiber mesh (optional)
3. Add the thin charcoal layer (optional)
4. Add your substrate
5. Spray generously water on the substrate
6. Add your moss patches. You can merge patches but avoid doing small areas of the same moss type: it is better to have big moss areas to recognize the types when it will grow up.
7. Press gently the moss on the substrate
8. Spray a bit of water again
9. Close the box

POTENTIAL DIFFICULTIES

Several issues may cause your terrarium to provide unexpected results (direct light was heating the terrarium, the soil did not provide enough minerals, etc.). If that happens, research with your pupils what went wrong and emit hypotheses. You may then show them how the experiment should have gone, or restart it while taking care to prevent future issues.

ALTERNATIVES

A. Add some elements in your moss box

Do not hesitate to add rocks or other natural elements to decorate your box.

If you have trouble with the growth of fungal, you can remove them manually or add some Springtails in your box: they can eat growing fungal.

