



# Terrarium Habitats

## Teacher's Guide



### IN A NUTSHELL

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**Cost:** \$10.80

The activities in this brief guide are designed to help teachers derive the maximum educational value from a classroom terrarium. The activities are sequenced to begin with a study of soil, progress to a discussion of habitat, and from there to introduce progressively more complex life forms. Specific activities include conducting soil tests, observing animals and biological processes, recording information, suggestions for introducing children to earthworms and other terrarium inhabitants, and actually constructing the habitats. The authors make frequent reference to other existing environmental curricula as extensions or supports of this material. Includes worksheets, lesson outlines, lists of needed materials and additional resources, extensions, diagrams, and suggestions for environmentally related songs. Also lists summaries of the five principal activities and cites related children's literature about the species highlighted.

**Grade Level**

K-6

**Length**

84 pages

**Date Published**

revised in 2000

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### SUBJECTS

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Language Arts

Mathematics

Science

\*Data sheets are also available in Spanish.

**THE** BOTTOM  
LINE

“Allows for continuity of activities for a year- or semester- long project. Builds well on past activities.”

What the REVIEWERS Said !	Key Characteristics	Strengths Noted	Other Considerations
	Fairness and Accuracy	Clearly states reviewers and contributors.	
	Depth		Does not challenge students to think beyond the terrarium or to use the activities to understand the 'real world'.
	Emphasis on Skills Building	Emphasizes creative writing, observation and description.	
	Action Orientation	Not Applicable.	
	Instructional Soundness	Activities are hands-on for use with students' different learning styles. Allows for long-term observation.	Does not state goals or objectives.
	Usability	Materials are simple. Instructions are easy to follow.	

“If you want to teach children soil science without having to get heavily into science, this is a great little book.”

“The material has a narrow scope but it covers it well enough to be useful.”