



Wednesdays in the Woods Activity: Make your own Biome

Materials Needed:

- Plastic container with a lid
- Trowel or small shovel
- Water
- Sunny location, like a windowsill
- Place outside to dig small plants and collect other materials

Instructions:

1. Bring your plastic container and lid to an area outside where there are many tiny plants growing, like a forest. Gently dig up some small plants, making sure there are no small insects or worms in your sample. Dig deeply enough to remove roots.
2. Place your plant and soil sample in your plastic container. Remember that you will be replacing the lid on your container, so make sure the plants are not taller than the top edges of the container.
3. You might choose to cover the bottom of your container with pebbles beforehand, but it's not necessary. The sample in your container should be a miniature version of the larger surrounding habitat. Your sample might include fungi, moss, and rotting wood or bark, as well.
4. Lightly sprinkle the sample with water and cover the top with the lid. Place in a sunny location, and watch your plants grow!
5. You should not need to water your biome.

Reflective Questions:

- What do you think you will observe happening within your biome?
- Why is it important to have a balance of materials in your biome?
- How might this project be different if you lived in a different habitat or climate?

Extensions of this activity:

- Visit a local greenhouse or your own greenhouse and compare what is happening in the greenhouse to what you observe in your biome.
- Record the daily or weekly changes you notice in your biome; how is this similar to or different from what you observe changing outside?

Biome



Photo by Hannah Raymond