

# Muggle Studies Years 3 & 4

**Homework Instructions:** Read the brief history of nature in the Muggle world below. Then complete the project at the end.

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When Muggle colonists came to America, they carried with them attitudes about nature and the wilderness. According to their beliefs, forests were wild places that needed to be tamed. In other words, they did not admire the natural world for its beauty. They wanted to use the resources like animals for fur and meat, trees for building and fuel and plants for food and medicines. As the colonies grew, the wild places became fewer and fewer.

During the late -1700s, Muggles started to become very interested in the natural world, not just for resources but for its beauty and grandeur. Nature paintings and drawings decorate the walls of rich Muggle's homes, scientists started to study and learn about nature and people brought plants and animals into their home decorations including on wallpaper and furniture carvings.

In 1829, a Muggle named Nathaniel Bagshaw Ward discovered that if soil seeds and moisture are sealed in a glass case, it will create a stable environment inside the case in which plants will grow and it doesn't need much care. This discovery

meant that plants were much more easily transported around the world than they ever had been. The terrarium or Wardian case as the glass environment was named, became a popular decoration in wealthy homes.

Now it is time for you to make your own terrarium. Wardian cases were carefully created to mimic an environment in which living plants could survive, but the



terrarium that you will make should not contain living things. It is plastic and not large enough to make a real environment for plants.

## **Make Your Own Terrarium**

### **Kit Materials**

- Moss
- Sticky bees, ladybugs, and butterflies
- Plastic dome
- Glue
- Ribbon
- Small objects from outdoors (*optional and not in kit*)

### **Instructions**

1. Begin to construct your terrarium by gluing your moss to the base of the plastic dome.

2. Continue to arrange your terrarium using objects from your kit and objects you gathered outside by gluing items on top of the moss or on top of each other (Make sure your design will fit under the dome once it is placed on top.)
3. Once you have arranged your items and glued them down, wait a few minutes to allow your glue to dry.
4. When the glue is dry, put your terrarium dome on top and screw it in.
5. String the ribbon through the loop at the top of the dome and hang it wherever you would like.

