

# Parent Guide

## How can I use this with my children?

Why not get your child to create their own miniature rainforest using a large jar? These instructions will help them to build their own miniature habitat.

## How does this help my children's learning?

Encourage your child to observe how their miniature rainforest changes, to help them discover more about these unique and important ecosystems.

## Ideas for further learning:

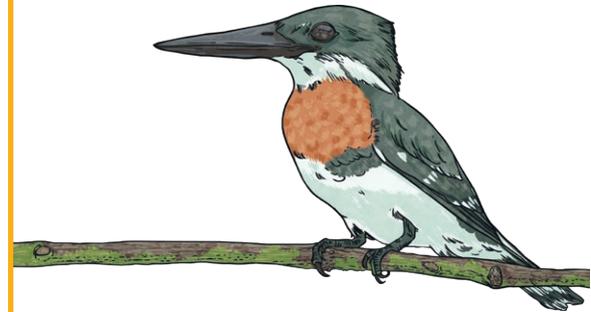
Encourage your child to explain the changes they observe to their mini-ecosystem by researching plant life cycles and the water cycle.



# Rainforest in a Jar

## You will need:

- a large, clean glass jar
- a few pebbles
- a small amount of soil
- water
- flower or vegetable seeds
- a small piece of fine sandpaper
- moss



## Instructions:

1. Gently place the pebbles at the bottom of the jar.
2. Carefully pour the soil into the jar.
3. Pour the water onto the soil, so it is moist.
4. Very gently rub the seeds with the sandpaper. This will help the seeds to absorb the water more easily.
5. Carefully drop your seeds onto the soil.
6. Cover with moss.
7. Put the lid on your jar.
8. Place your jar on a sunny window sill.



- Observe the changes to your miniature rainforest as it changes over time. You will discover how the water cycle works. The water in your jar changes state from liquid to gas (water vapour) but never disappears. Your seeds should begin to sprout and start to grow even without any extra water.
- For an extra challenge, why not make two similar miniature rainforests, but place them in different locations? Which plant grows fastest? Why do you think this is?

We hope the information on our website and resource is useful. However, some ingredients and/or materials used might cause allergic reactions, so if you have any concerns about your own or somebody else's health or wellbeing, always speak to a qualified health professional. Remember, activities listed within the resource should always be supervised by an appropriate adult.

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