

# DIY Soil-arium

This activity mimics the process of making Leafgro **GOLD**® and is great because you can watch the decomposition process right in front of you.

Microorganisms like bacteria and fungi run the compost process. They're too small to see, but are hard at work outdoors. We can recreate their workspace in our jar by providing a little bit of water, air, and warmth, so they can breakdown the leaves, grass, food scraps and newspaper.

## Step 1



## Supplies

- A wide-mouth clear glass or plastic jar
- Grass, fallen leaves, a bit soil
- Old newspaper
- Veggie scraps (no meat or dairy)
- 1 cup rainwater
- A permanent marker

## Step 2

### Add Microbes

Place a small handful of soil in the jar.



## Step 3



## Microbe Feeding

Repeat layers of newspaper, food scraps, dried leaves, and grass until the jar is mostly full.

## Step 4

### H<sub>2</sub>O, Air & Sun

Add your rainwater, cap the jar, poke holes in the lid for oxygen, and set on a sunny windowsill.



Draw a fill line on the glass to indicate the top of the jumbled ingredients. Every two weeks, mark a line to show the “new” top as the microbes get composting.

In about 12 weeks, the layers of food scraps, leaves, grass, and newspaper will turn into a nutrient-rich compost that you can use in your springtime garden!