Tools and Materials for Building a Terrarium

Glass or acrylic container: Can be as small as a dropper bottle or as big as an aquarium. Needs to have a tight fitting lid that holds in moisture. Mason jars work great.

Nylon or fiberglass screening, or a plastic bag with many, many holes punched with a pin. This is to separate the false bottom from the soil mixture to stop materials from decomposing and getting all stinky.

Scissors- to cut the screening or plastic bag.

Pebbles, small stones, lava rock or tumbled glass chips to create false bottom. Do not use sand. You want a reasonably thick layer to hold the excess water. Very tiny jar, ¼ inch to ½ inch, mason jar ½ inch to ¾ inch, larger containers can be up to and over 1 inch. Make sure you measure the bottom of your container to have enough material to cover the base.

Helpful but not necessary: long and short tweezers, chopsticks to help with placement of plants and decorative elements.

**Decorative elements, Hardscape:**

Pebbles, stones, twigs (bark removed), dried leaves, acorn caps, cork bark

**Soil components:** Spaghnam Moss, Sand or Perlite, Orchid Bark, Charcoal (horticultural, aquarium or lump), Potting Soil (w/o fertilizer) or Coco Fiber.

Charcoal can be a separate layer (as seen in the video) or you can mix it in with the other soil components.

**Plants:**

Gesneriads are great for terrariums, small ferns, moss, ficus quercifolia (miniature Oak leaf fig), Air Plants (Tillandsia sp.), Peperomia, Frittonia, Carnivorous plants, purple waffle, Most aquarium plants can be grown out of water in a terrarium, they just need time to adjust to their new environment, some great ones are : Anubias, Java fern & moss, Baby Tears (Soleirolia soleirolii)

**Watering:** If it’s a very small terrarium you can use Syringes to water the terrarium for the first time. If it’s a larger terrarium you can use a small watering can. Make sure you don’t fill the water past the false bottom.