

How to make a miniature garden

Make your own tiny garden to keep indoors in a warm, light place. It's easy to plant and you can watch things grow. You can plant the garden in a flat flower pot, but it will grow just as well in an old tray or a flat food container. Don't forget you will need to water your garden every two or three days.

Things you need

- A flower tray or food container
- Small plants
- Moss
- Soil or potting compost
- Small stones
- A small mirror to make a 'pond'
- Water



Step 1

Fill the tray with 2 cm of soil or compost. Spread it out evenly. Water the soil but don't make it soggy.



Step 2

Put the mirror on the soil, and press on it a little. Place small stones around the mirror to hide its edges.



Step 3

Make a path from small stones. Don't make them too wide because you need space for the plants in the garden.



Step 4

Make small holes in the soil and carefully push the roots of a plant into each one. Gently press down the soil around the roots.



Step 5

Lay pieces of moss over the soil and around the plants. Press down on them firmly.



Step 6

Put the tray where it will get plenty of light. Every two or three days, check the garden and add a little water if the soil is dry.



1. How often does it say you should water your garden?

2. Give the meaning of the word *soggy*.

3. (a) What part of the garden is the mirror for?

(b) Why is the mirror good for this?

4. Why is there a list of the things you need before the steps on the next page?

5. What does it tell you to fill the tray with first?

6. What do the stones placed around the mirror do?

7. Do you think you would find it easy to follow these instructions?

Explain your answer.

Why not make your own miniature garden? Look after it and watch it grow.

Answers

1. Every two or three / few days or when the soil is dry.
2. References to making something wet, eg:
 - *soaked in water/make it really wet*
3. (a) Reference to the pond.
(b) Refers to the surface properties of the mirror resembling water, eg:
 - *because it shimmers like the ripples on water*
 - *because it reflects things just like water*
 - *because it shines and you can see yourself in water and in the mirror too*
 - *because it looks like a pond/because water would spill*
4. To help you remember what to prepare before you make the garden, eg:
 - *you can get things ready for when you make your miniature garden*
 - *because if you don't have a list you could be halfway through and find out you have something missing*
 - *because it is important to know what you need before you start*

Don't accept

- *because it tells you how to make it/ because these are the things you need*
5. Either of the following:
 - (fine) soil
 - (potting) compost
 6. Answers which indicate that the stones hide the edges of the mirror.
 7. Answers which consider aspect(s) of the text, or the illustrations, and explain how these contribute to the overall ease or difficulty of the instructions, eg:
 - *yes - I found the instructions easy to follow because they are put in steps which help to explain the instructions*
 - *yes - because they are very detailed and are in order. Also they are good ideas.*
 - *no - because you need a lot of things and some of them would be quite hard to get*

Refers to the text or illustrations, but do not give an explanation, eg:

- *yes - because it has steps*
- *yes - because they are very detailed*
- *yes - it would be easy to follow these instructions because it explains it clearly*
- *no - I haven't got all the things you need*

Don't accept

- *yes - because they are easy*