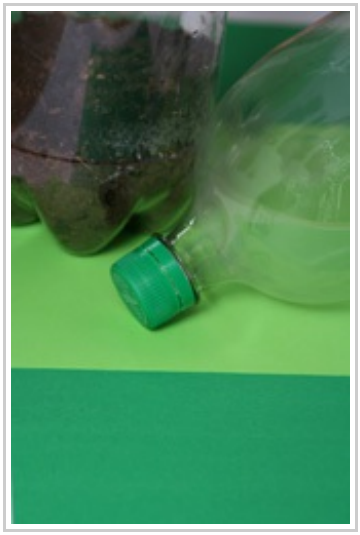
Make a Soda Bottle Greenhouse



Attention, green thumbs! Want to bring the green inside? You probably already have all the ingredients you'll need to create a miniature garden right inside your house.

With this hands-on activity, kids learn what it takes to foster seedlings into full-grown plants. They'll be able to see roots spreading, leaves sprouting, and flowers blooming, all in a regular old soda bottle!

What You Need:

- 1 empty 2-liter soda bottle, washed and dried
- Exacto knife or sharp scissors
- Potting soil
- Seeds (try herbs, flowers, or experiment with the seeds from a piece of fruit)
- Plate to hold the greenhouse and keep your tabletop dry

What You Do:

1. Parents, using the exacto knife or scissors, cut the label from the soda bottle. Carefully cut the bottle in half so that the bottom (container) piece is deep enough to hold soil and plants. Poke a few holes into the bottom of the container for drainage.
2. Have your child fill the container with soil and plant seeds. Water lightly.
3. Put the top half of the soda bottle back on, tucking inside the edges of the container. If necessary, you can cut small slits into the upper portion to make it fit. Leave the cap on.
4. Place atop a waterproof plate in a sunny spot and water sparingly. The lid retains moisture and heat, so your seeds should sprout quickly. Because the plastic is clear, you'll be able to see the roots beneath the surface of the soil. If the greenhouse gets too steamy, you can remove the lid once in a while. When your seedlings get big enough, transplant to the garden, and plant a new crop!

© Copyright 2006-2012 Education.com All Rights Reserved.