

# Plastic Planting

This activity is a 'UMA' from the Have Adventures (green) theme. It counts for 45 minutes.

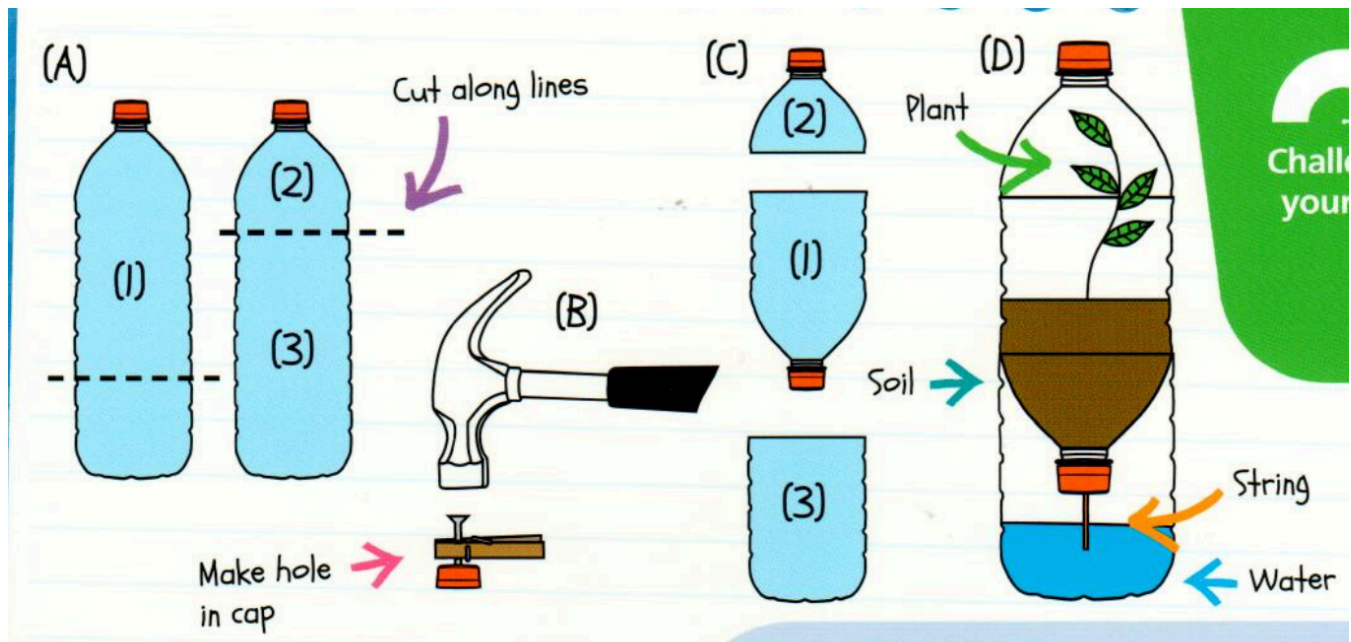
**Aim of activity:** Become an ecologist and create your very own self-sufficient ecosystem.

**What you'll need:**

- 2x 2 litre empty and clean plastic bottles
- Scissors
- Nail or screw
- 10-15cm of string
- Potting soil
- Seeds (mint and basil work well)
- Sticky tack
- A hammer
- A clothes peg
- Water
- Duct tape

Everything on our Earth is connected in some way. We have living things like plants, animals and other organisms. These need to interact with non-living things such as soil, water and sunlight to create a system which sustains life. This is an 'ecosystem'. An ecosystem can be as big as the earth or as small as a pond.

Have a go at creating your own mini ecosystem in a bottle biosphere!



## What to do:

1. Take your bottles and use the scissors to cut them as shown in picture A, creating three parts.
2. Unscrew the bottle cap from part 1. Put a large piece of sticky tack inside and stick it to the table or the floor. Clip the peg to the nail and hold it in place in the centre of the cap. Hammer gently on the nail until it makes a hole in the cap, like in picture B.  
**Stay safe! Be careful when hammering. Make sure there is space around you, don't rush and don't hammer too hard. To protect your fingers, hold the nail in place with a peg.**
3. Remove the sticky tack. Feed the string through the hole and tie a knot to secure it inside the cap. Screw the cap back onto the bottle.
4. Now fill part 1 with 8-10cm of soil. Plant your seeds by gently pressing them into the soil, ensuring they are completely covered.
5. Put some water in the bottom of part 3. Now connect the parts, like in picture C. The cap of part 1 should be about 2cm above the water (adjust the level if you need to).
6. Once everything looks right, seal up the three parts with duct tape, like in picture D.
7. You have created your biosphere! It will need plenty of sun.  
Send us some pictures 😊