

# Make an Ant Farm

This story is about following an ant through the nature of an urban environment. For something a little more scientific and hands on children could use the instructions below to build their own ant farm.

## YOU WILL NEED

- 1 large glass jar with a lid with tiny holes punched in it (smaller than the ants so they cannot escape)
- 1 smaller glass jar with its lid on (that fits inside the large one)
- Hot glue gun
- Ants
- Dirt (equal parts sand and soil is best) to half-fill the large jar
- A small amount of ant food (honey or sugar)
- A small bit of sponge or paper towel.

## INSTRUCTIONS

- 1 Place a small amount of hot glue into the base of the large jar.
- 2 Place the smaller jar upside down in the larger jar and hold until the glue sets. This forms the 'inner wall' of the ant farm and ensures the ants stay visible near the outside of the larger jar.
- 3 Fill the space between the jars with dirt - leaving a small gap at the top.
- 4 Sprinkle or pour the ant food in the top of the large jar and sit the container near an ant nest.
- 5 Wait for about 100 ants to enter the large jar.
- 6 Add some extra ant food to the top of the container and the wet sponge or paper towel.
- 7 Screw the lid on tight.

### Additional Teaching Notes:

- Don't forget to add small amounts of food and wet the sponge or paper towel regularly.
- If the soil starts to get too dry, add a small amount of water. Only add a very small amount of water at a time - you don't want to drown your ants.
- When you are done watching your ants take them back outside and return them to the garden.
- When you are finished the glass jars can be rinsed and recycled.

Living things grow, change and have offspring similar to themselves.



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