

Maya's "Most Decadent" Biosphere Recipe



Materials:

- **1 L** mason jar
- **1** spoon (you can use anything that allows you to move around the matter in your jar)
- **2 cm** of gravel (I used fish gravel, but you can use any type as long as it's clean)
- **1** coffee filter
- **1** pencil
- **1** pair of scissors
- **1 cm** of activated charcoal
 - [Read this article to learn more about active charcoal](#)
- **3.5 cm** of moist soil
- **Abiotic** (not alive) & **Biotic** (alive) elements
 - **Ex: rocks, moss, a plant that likes moist environments (with roots attached), sticks, worms, ants, beetles, mushrooms, pieces of fruit (to give your soil nutrients) etc.**

- **75 ml** of water

Note: Before you start, make sure that your work area is a flat, and smooth surface, that you're willing to get dirty.

Instructions:

1. Read all of the instructions carefully before starting.
2. Use your **spoon** to scoop about **2 centimetres of gravel** into your **mason jar** (it does not have to be perfect).
3. Continuing to use the spoon add about 1.5 cm's of activated charcoal.
4. Next, put your **mason jar** on top of your folded **coffee filter**, that's sitting on your work space. Roughly trace the bottom of the **jar** (about 1 cm larger than it is).
5. Cut out the circle that you drew (you should get two circles by doing this step).
6. Put the circular **coffee filter** pieces into your **jar**, using the **spoon (or preferred tool)** to adjust.
7. After that, gently spoon in your **soil** , measuring once in a while, to make sure that you don't have too much, or too little.
8. Dig a 1-1.5 cm hole for each plant that you are planning to add.
9. Now it's time to decorate! This is when you would personnalise your biosphere by adding **abiotic**, and **biotic** elements. Make sure to have a balance of these elements, to

ensure a healthy biosphere. I used moss, a spider plant, 2 rocks, a wood chip, a piece of apple, and a worm. Feel free to be creative with this step, and make it yours!

10. It's time to water your biosphere! Measure out **100 ml of water**. If your soil is already quite moist, pour only **75 ml** of water into the jar. If your soil is dry, add all 100 **ml's** of the measured h₂o into your biosphere (you can adjust depending on your situation).
11. The last step is the easiest. Sit down and watch your homemade biosphere develop! **Remember** this is not a plant, it does not need water every day (I've had mine for more than a week, and it still has not been watered again). The biosphere should take care of itself! Check on it once in a while to make sure it is not dry, but let it do it's own thing.