

Food Chains and Webs: Setting up the "Anole Greenhouse"

Why?

The anoles and the crickets are at their best when the temperature of their surroundings is in the 70 - 80 degree range. Many schools reduce their building temperatures in the after hours and over weekends into the 60 degree range. We have devised a "Greenhouse" set up for your terrariums to capture heat and raise the temperature of the environment for the critters. This set up can also be used to cause condensation to form on the inside of the terrariums which would provide obtainable water for the anoles and crickets.

What?

These are the materials provided for this with the kit (for up to four terrariums).

- 1 - 40 watt light bulb
- 1 – light bulb holder
- 1 – light bulb cage/protector
- 1 - 50"x50" plastic sheet
- 1 - copier box top (Optional: teacher provided)

How?

1. Put the light bulb holder, light bulb and cage protector together (if separated). The cage protector snaps together and can rest on the light bulb holder base. You do not need to secure the lower arm.



2. Set up four terrariums in a square configuration, opposite each other.



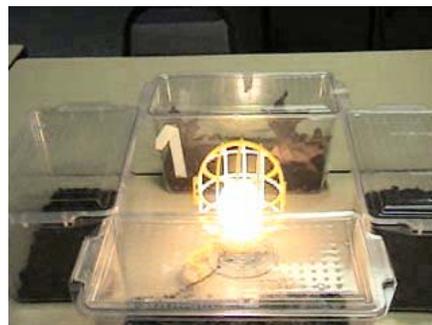
3. Place the light bulb assembly in the center.



4. Tighten up the square by moving the terrariums closer together.



5. The light bulb will be the heat source for the terrariums.



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6. Create the greenhouse by covering the entire set up with the large sheet of plastic.



7. You can tuck the plastic under the terrariums to hold it in place and to reduce heat loss.



Optional:

In order to further decrease heat loss, first place a copier box top over the light bulb. Support the top by placing it on top of the terrariums. Then add the plastic cover.



Capturing Moisture: Covering the terrarium lid holes will reduce the evaporation of water from the terrariums and cause condensation to form on the inner walls. Doing this will provide moisture droplets for the anoles (and crickets) during the school day, and over weekends. To do this you can cover each terrarium with a piece of plastic BEFORE you cover the terrariums with the larger piece of plastic. (Leave a few of the lid holes uncovered for airflow.)



View the Video: You can view a video of how to set up the "Greenhouse" - see link. If you have more than 4 terrariums carrol all the terrariums under the plastic cover.