

Setting Up the Habitats

NOTE: Set up the class habitat as soon as the pill bugs arrive!

Materials:

- one 48 oz. clear food storage container w/lid
- 32 oz. clear food storage containers w/lids (**one per team**)
- box cutter
- 35 pill bugs from Carolina Biological (www.carolina.com)
- potting soil
- yard leaf litter (twigs, bark, and leaf litter collected from outdoors)
- spray bottle

Setup for the class habitat:

- Use the box cutter to make plenty of slots in the lid of the **48 oz. container** (to allow in air).
- Add 2 mm (~3/4 in.) of potting soil to the bottom of the container.
- Cover with a layer of yard leaf litter.
- **Mist lightly** with water (use spray bottle).
- Add several thin slices of potato **peel** and/or apple **peel**. Place them under the leaf litter so that the class does not see them. This food will maintain the pill bugs until the learners set up their own investigations.
- Add all of the pill bugs.
- Replace lid on the top.
- **NOTE: it is important to conceal the habitat from the class until you are ready to introduce it on Day 2!**

Setup for the team habitats:

Prepare the team habitats ahead of time for the learners to use on Day 5!

- Use the 32 oz. clear food storage containers for the team habitats (**1 per team**).
- The team habitats will include everything the class habitat has but will be smaller. Air slits should be made on the tops (lids) of the team habitats.
- Add 2 mm (~3/4 in.) of the potting soil and some yard leaf litter then **mist lightly**.
- **DO NOT ADD ANY FOOD!**
- Set up all the containers for the team mini-habitats (along with plastic spoons, gloves, and the class habitat) in a central location accessible to learners.
- **Learners will add the pill bugs on Day 5; they will add their food choices on Day 6.**