

Life in the Undergrowth

Number of students: 10ish

Age group: Late middle school to high school

Time: 50 mins

Goals:

- Teach about the different organisms in the soil
- Help the students think about how different organisms interact with each other
- Cover basic soil ecology
- Terrarium!

Slideshow:

- Soil organisms
 - Microorganisms
 - Bugs like worms, beetles, and other decomposers
 - Mycorrhizae
- Terrarium basics
 - Drainage layer
 - Soil layer
 - Top layer
 - Mealworms

Plan:

First 20 minutes

- Show the slideshow and explain the basic topics
- Leave room for questions after each group of slides
- Keep the slideshow fun!

Next 10 minutes

- Demonstrate how to create a mini terrarium and introduce the students to the different items dirt, rocks, mealworms, etc.

Final 20 minutes

- Supervise the students working on their own terrariums
- We will provide various elements for the top too as decoration, such as rocks, sticks, and leaves