

# WETLAND WONDERS

People and wildlife need healthy wetlands

Every living thing needs water and wetlands do a great job of keeping our waterways clean. The plants growing in these areas play a big part in this process. Their roots hold the soil together and keep it from being washed away. Roots and stems also keep our waterways clean by filtering the water.

Make your own wetland in a bottle and see for yourself!

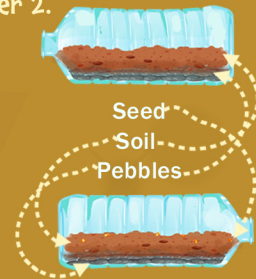
## 1. Gather

- Two large plastic bottles (1.5-2l) with the marked section below cut out
- Two smaller plastic bottles (500ml) cut in half
- String
- Pebbles
- Potting soil
- Seeds of any fast-growing plant (e.g. grass)
- Water in a bucket or jug



## 2. Do

- Fill the large bottles with 3-4cm of pebbles followed by 3-4cm of soil.
- Sow seeds into one of the bottles. This is Planter 1. The other bottle without seeds is Planter 2.

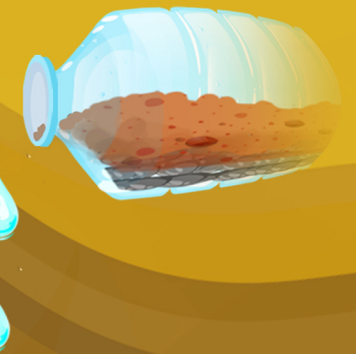


- Keep the soil in Planter 1 moist (but not too moist!) until the plants are around 8-10cm high.
- Set the bottles on a table with the necks extending over the edge. For each bottle, prop the end up to create a slope towards the bottle's neck.
- Use string to hang the smaller bottle halves over the necks of the bigger bottles to catch the water run-off.
- Gently pour equal amounts of water over the two planters.



## 3. See

Watch the water flow out of the two planters, noting how fast the run off flows and which is cleaner.



## 4. Think

- Is there a difference in the quantity and quality of water collected from the two planters?
- Why is there a difference?
- Why do you think our reservoirs are surrounded by forests?



Wildlife Reserves Singapore Group



Wildlife Reserves Singapore  
Conservation Fund

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