

**4-H at  
HOME**



► To discover a wide selection of 4-H activities and experiences,  
visit [4-H.org/4HatHome](https://4-H.org/4HatHome)

# GET INTO GREENHOUSE GARDENING

Build your own greenhouse and learn about the importance of gardening around the world.





# Get Into Greenhouse Gardening

Build your own greenhouse and learn about the importance of gardening around the world.

## About the Activity

Gardening continues to be one of the most popular hobbies in the world, and different gardening styles emerge as technology evolves. We will show you how to build a mini greenhouse while learning about why gardening is important in our lives.

This activity is part of our 4-H At-Home Garden Series. See the rest of the activities [here](#)

## Supplies

**These simple supplies are all you'll need for this activity. Some of these, like the seeds, you may need to find at a plant store:**

- Seed starter greenhouse or a to-go food container with a clear lid
- Seed packet
- Soil
- Water
- Optional: safety pin
- Plant labels
- Permanent marker

**Grades: 3-8**

**Topic:** STEM, Biology

**Time:** 30 minutes





# Activity Steps

1

Grab your seed starter greenhouse or a to-go food container with a clear lid. Fill them with soil. Moisten the soil with water.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Greenhouses are great for starting new plants. They can offer protection from harsh weather, reduce pests, and extend the growing season.

2

Using your fingertips, poke a small hole where the seed will be planted. Gently cover the seed with soil. Water the soil again to help with germination.

**DID YOU KNOW?** Gardening is one of the most popular stress relievers. For a lot of gardeners, it is a time where they are able to relax their minds and escape the busy world we live in.

3

Place the lid on your greenhouse. If it includes a humidity dial, increase the humidity by turning the knob. If you are using a to-go container, check if it has holes on the lid. If not, use a safety pin to poke holes in it to help with airflow.

**DID YOU KNOW?** You can practice conservation through gardening. Limit your water usage by collecting rainwater to water your plants, or water plants in the morning or late afternoon, instead of mid-day to avoid evaporation when the sun is highest in the sky.

4

After you place your lid on your greenhouse, place it next to a sunny window. You may begin to see moisture inside the lid!

**DID YOU KNOW?** If you like gardening, there are so many careers out there for you! A horticulturist is a person who is an expert in growing and managing plant production. An environmental engineer works to minimize and manage hazards to the environment. There are many more jobs like these... take a look online to see what might interest you!

5

Make sure to check everyday if the soil is moist, and water lightly if necessary. Enjoy watching the seeds grow in your mini greenhouse.

**DID YOU KNOW?** It really does take hard work to make food, and we can appreciate all the gardeners and farmers that are providing food to our table.

**DID YOU KNOW** that by 2050, our population will hit 10 billion people? We will need more gardeners like you to grow food, so we have enough food to feed the population.



# Test Your Knowledge

**See how much you've learned about gardening!**

## QUESTION 1

**Gardening is one of the most popular stress relievers.**

- a. True
- b. False

## QUESTION 2

**Which of the following protects plants from harsh weather, reduces pests, and extends the growing season.**

- a. A greenhouse
- b. An umbrella
- c. A roof

## QUESTION 3

**How can you conserve water in your garden?**

- a. Give them fruit juice instead
- b. Use rainwater for watering
- c. Water during the heat of the day

## QUESTION 4

**What is a horticulturist?**

- a. An expert on growing and managing plant production
- b. An expert on birds
- c. An expert on insects

## QUESTION 5

**How many people will we need to feed by the year 2050?**

- a. 1 million
- b. 1 billion
- c. 10 billion

# Reflection Questions

**Bonus questions to inspire wonder:**

- What are some benefits to gardening?
- What kind of careers are there for people that like gardening, other than farming?
- Can you think of any unique ways to grow a garden?





# Investigate & Explore

Take your new knowledge  
to the next level.

No matter how little space you have, you can always find a way to plant a garden. Plants can thrive in many different areas, and both indoors and outdoors, in full sun or full shade, in moist or dry areas, and in- or above-ground... this is possible all over the world!

Next time you see a tree or plant you like, find out what kind of plant it is, then do some internet sleuthing to see where it comes from and where it grows best!

---

Brought to you by:



National Institute of Food and Agriculture  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

No endorsement of these supporters' products or services is granted or implied by 4-H. This work is supported by the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, AFRI - Education and Workforce Development project 2021-67037-33376.