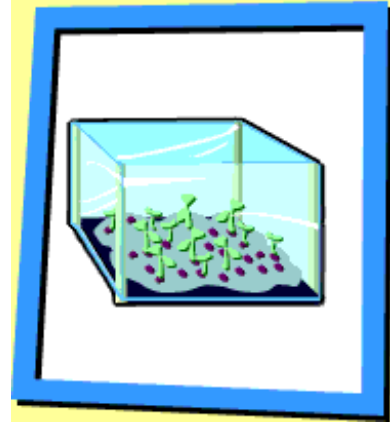




# Mini Greenhouse

Greenhouses enable plants to grow in an environment with the best growing conditions.

Design and make a mini greenhouse for growing your own plants. Then test the greenhouse by growing mustard and cress in it.



## Equipment

1. A plate or other container with a flat surface, such as a baking tray.
2. A roll of cotton wool.
3. Some mustard seeds and cress seeds. You can buy these from any garden shop.
4. Some material that lets light through, such as a clear plastic bag, some polythene or bubble wrap
5. Some small sticks, such as lollipop sticks, pipe cleaners, art straws or pieces of dowel rod.
6. Some clear sticky tape and a pair of scissors.

## Safety Stuff

Make sure you check with an adult before you begin, as you might need their help at some point. Cover the work surface with some newspaper or an old cloth and make sure you are wearing an apron or some old clothes. Gather together all the items you'll need before you begin. Most of the things you'll need can probably be found by simply hunting around the house, but remember to check with an adult before you take anything. And don't forget to tidy up afterwards.

If you are growing plants, don't put any seeds, flowers or leaves in your mouth. All of the plants you'll be using are safe (some can even be put in salads or nibbled on) but some plants can be poisonous. Better safe than sorry! Make sure you also keep any small items such as seeds, that can easily be swallowed, away from babies and young children.

# Steps

## Step One

First, build the mini greenhouse.

Place the baking tray or plate on a flat surface. This is where your plants will grow.

Use the pipe cleaners, art straws or lollipop sticks to build a frame over the tray. This frame will support the 'glass' of the greenhouse.

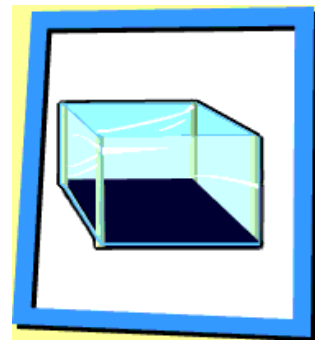
Experiment with different materials to find the best way of making the frame. It will need to be strong enough to support the weight of the 'glass' and to protect the plants, as well as providing them with space to grow. The frame also needs to allow in as much light as possible.

## Step Two

When you are happy with your frame, add the 'glass' to your mini greenhouse.

Take some polythene or bubble wrap (or other material that will let light through) and cut a piece that is large enough to cover the whole tray, including the sides.

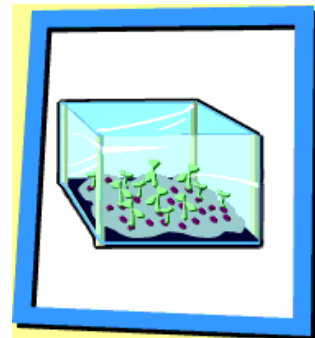
Use the sticky tape to make a box shape that will fit over the tray and is supported by the frame.



## Step Three

Make sure that when the 'glass' top is on your greenhouse there is a good seal between the 'glass' and the tray. This means that the warm air in the greenhouse cannot escape. Can you think of a way to improve this seal, so that no warm air escapes?

Make sure also that your design allows the top to be removed easily, so that you can water the plants regularly.



## Step Four

When you are happy with your greenhouse, it is time to add the plants!

Remove the lid and place a thin layer of cotton wool in the bottom of the tray, so that all of the tray is covered. Sprinkle the mustard and cress seeds onto the cotton wool, and add enough water to dampen the cotton wool (but not to flood it).

Put the lid back on the greenhouse and put it in a warm place. Add water every day to keep the cotton wool moist. After a few days your mustard and cress plants will appear!