

TERRARIUM RECIPE CARD

Project
Level:
Easy

Materials

- Container: 10 gallon glass aquarium for one salamander, larger for more salamanders
- Mesh screen lid
- Clay *Hydroballs* or gravel
- Eco Earth
- Medium resin drinking dish
- Cork bark to act as a cave
- Sphagnum moss
- RO Water or water conditioner to treat tap water
- Aquarium thermometer and hygrometer
- Cricket or feed keeper
- Aluminum foil or plastic wrap
- Clean spray bottle (used only for water)
- Plastic or latex gloves
- See Insect Keeper page for feed instructions
- Tiger Salamander

Food

- Crickets
- Mealworms
- Wax worms
- And other feeder insects
- Calcium powder
- See Insect Keeper page for cricket and insect food instructions

Recommended Temperature and Humidity:

Tiger Salamanders like cool temperatures, 65-72° F or 18-21° C. Do not place terrarium in a sunny window or in an area where it will become overheated. Humidity in tank should be high.



TIGER SALAMANDER HABITAT

Set up: Rinse clay balls or gravel in a bucket or tub until water runs clear. Layer the clay balls into the bottom of the tank, taking up the first 5 cm so that the tank has a drainage area. Next layer about 6 cm of moistened Eco Earth. Do not over saturate the eco earth, it should be moist but not muddy. Arrange water dish on one side of the tank. This will act as a pool for the salamander to swim and moisten itself. Arrange tree bark on the opposite side of tank to act as a cave so that the salamander can hide or burrow. Moisten sphagnum moss and arrange over exposed Eco Earth area. The moss will help the environment to keep moist and help soil retain water. Fill pool with RO water. Put on latex gloves if you will be handling the salamander to place into the terrarium. Oils and germs from human hands can irritate the delicate skin of the salamander. Cover terrarium with the mesh lid so that animal will not escape.

Maintenance: Keep tank moist by spraying with RO water at least once a day. If air is extra arid, cover half of the mesh lid with aluminum foil to slow down evaporation. Change out water from dish as it becomes soiled (about twice a week.) To clean habitat: Change out Eco Earth soil once each semester, rinse clay balls or gravel to use again as drainage layer. Do not use detergent or chemicals to clean water dish. Make sure 10 Gallon tank is cleaned only with water (or scrubbed with salt if dirty) do not use detergent on tank as soap residue will harm the salamander.

Care: This habitat is for observation purposes. Students should not handle the salamander as it may harm the animal. Salamanders are hunters. Feed it 2-3 live crickets twice a week, change water before feeding. Dust insects with calcium powder every two weeks for healthy bones. Although Tiger Salamanders are nocturnal, they will become active at feeding time. They can be easily trained to come up to the tank glass during feedings. Do not tap glass during observations. Amphibians need water and land to survive. The salamander will burrow to stay moist especially if the tank is too dry or their water dish is empty and they cannot swim. This is a great habitat to choose in schools that have refrigerated air conditioning as these creatures are hardy and prefer cool temperatures.