

## Houseplant for a Busy Family

Carla's mom wanted to get a houseplant, but she wanted one that wouldn't need lots of tending. She went online and learned about something called a vivarium, which is a self-contained garden (with plants, water, air and fertilized soil) in a glass container. The container can be completely sealed so no water or gases can get in or out. The info Carla's mom saw online said that plants in a sealed vivarium that are placed in a sunny area can live for a long time without needing anything.



Carla's mom brought up the idea of making a vivarium at dinner one night. Some family members were skeptical about what would happen to the plants in a vivarium. They knew that you can't always trust info from the Internet. Here's what they thought.

**Mom:** The plants will keep growing forever because plants have everything they need. They can make their own food as long as they have light.

**Carla:** The plants will stop growing but will still live because their growth is limited by how much carbon is in the container.

**Marco:** The plants will die because they require carbon dioxide and they will use up all the carbon dioxide in the container.

**Grandma:** The plants will die because they will use up all the water in the container.

**Who do you agree with and why?** It's OK to pick more than one person. Explain why you chose the answer(s) you did. In your explanation, focus on resources and processes that support plant life and growth.

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