

# Science + 4-H = A Recipe for Success!

4-H challenges you to think and make decisions for yourself and as part of a group. You will discover new ways to do things while you're having fun learning!

## Jell-O Terrarium

Soils exist as natural ecosystems on the surface of the Earth. Soils are living systems that provide many of the most fundamental functions needed for life. Geologists take many core samples to see the different layers of the Earth. Here's a fun way to try your hand at core samples.



### Materials Needed:

- Two different flavors of quick-setting gelatin or pudding
- Cut-up fruit, nuts, raisins, coarsely crushed Nilla Wafers, graham crackers, Oreo cookies, Nutterbutter cookies, etc.
- Two bowls
- Spoons
- One big glass bowl or see-through plastic cups
- Straws

### What to Do:

1. Follow the directions for making the gelatin or pudding. Add raisins, fruit, or nuts to each. Be sure to put only one item in each gelatin/pudding!
2. After each gelatin/pudding has set, remove it from its mixing bowl and place in a clear glass bowl or cups. Separate each layer of "earth" with a layer of crushed cookies/graham crackers. There should be a three-story "earth".
3. Take a straw and gently twist it straight down through all three layers. Stuck part way? Leave it where it is and try another straw somewhere else in the "earth".
4. Carefully and gently draw the straw from the "earth", open it lengthwise, and see what has been "cored" from the "earth"!

### Questions to Think About After:

1. Why did the straw get stuck before it reached the bottom?
2. Why do geologists take more than one core sample of an area?