



Build Your Own Desert Garden

Let's go!

By Karin Wong



Table of contents

Materials

Instructions

Sustainability

Fun Facts





Introduction to Desert Garden

The Huntington Library Desert Garden, home to over 2,000 species of succulents and desert plants, has been an attraction at the Library for almost 100 years. This 10 acre garden houses a variety of plants native to deserts all over the world including Mexico and the Southwest.



Kalanchoe daigremontiana
'Mother of Thousands'



Pachypodium horombense



Yucca filifera



Let's Get
Started



- Cactus Soil
- 2 to 3 succulents/desert plants of your choice
 - Shovel
- Reusable Takeout Box
 - Tape
 - Gloves



Materials



Instructions

Step 1

Putting the Garden Together



Take the plants out of their original container. Hold the plant gently upside down and squeeze the container to loosen the soil. Place it into the reusable takeout box.



Instructions

Step 2

Filling the Garden



Fill the box with about two scoops
of cactus soil.



Instructions

Step 3

Finishing off the Garden



Flatten out the soil so it completely covers the plants' roots but not the leaves of the plant.



Instructions

Step 4

Adding Decorations



Feel free to add some rocks or other small plants to spruce up your desert garden!



Background

Instructions

Print out and color in the desert plants. Once done, tape the drawing onto the lid of the plastic takeout box.

[Background: Color Me](#)

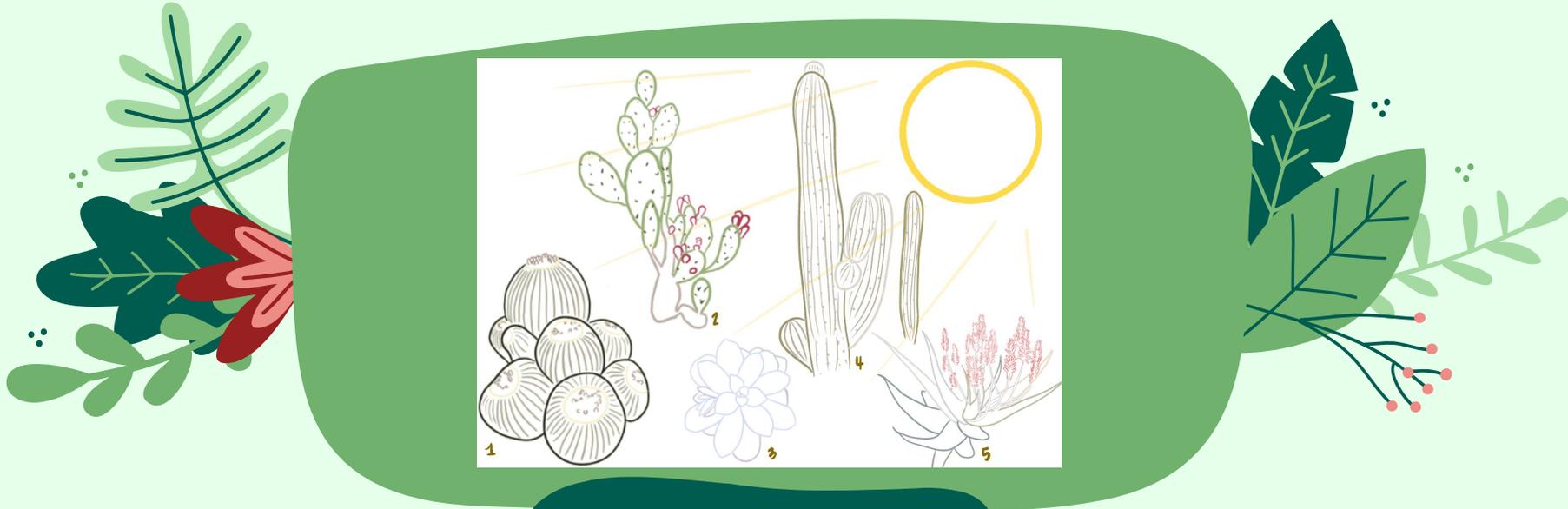
Click on Link Above^^^





Background

Instructions



Background: Color Me



Next

Background

Instructions



Tape the lid of the take out box to the back of the plastic box.



Background

Instructions



With the background colored in and taped, your desert garden is complete!



Sustainability



Why is my garden planted in a plastic takeout container?

Based on information from the American Chemistry Council and National Association for PET Container Resources, in 2018 about 14,530 (in thousands) tons of plastic containers were produced. 1,980 (in thousands) tons of these containers were recycled but the rest were thrown into landfills, continuing to take up precious space on our planet and polluting the environment. Only about 14% of containers were recycled.

By reusing a plastic container instead of throwing it out, YOU are helping the environment by reducing the amount of waste you produce. Not only are these containers lightweight and sturdy, their cost are minimum and anyone could obtain one from purchasing takeout from a local restaurant. Completing this project allows you to both create a beautiful and unique garden as well as help the environment by recycling. Remember to always try your best to recycle whenever you can!



About the plants
included in the
background image
(The number next to each plant
in the image corresponds with
the facts about each plant on the
following slides.



Fun Facts

Scientific Name:

Echinocactus grusonii

Characteristic: Golden
Spines

Fun Fact: These cacti are
rare and endangered in
the wild.



**Golden
Barrel
cactus**

Scientific Name: Opuntia
Characteristic: Bright
Pink Fruit
Fun Fact: The red fruit or
pear on the cactus are
also called “tuna”.



**Prickly
Pear
cactus**

Scientific Name:

Graptopetalum
paraguayense

Characteristic: Pale,
Velvety Skin

Fun Fact: The Ghost Plant
does not contain
chlorophyll which explains
its whitish color.



Ghost
Plant

Scientific Name:

Carnegiea gigantea

Characteristic: Large,
Tree-like, Columnar

Fun Fact: The Saguaro is
the largest cactus in the
United States.



**Saguaro
cactus**

Scientific Name: Aloe
arborescens

Characteristic: Showy
spikes of orange tubular
flowers

Fun Fact: The Torch Aloe is
one of the most commonly
grown aloes throughout
Southern California.



Torch Aloe