



TERRARIUM PETS

Volume



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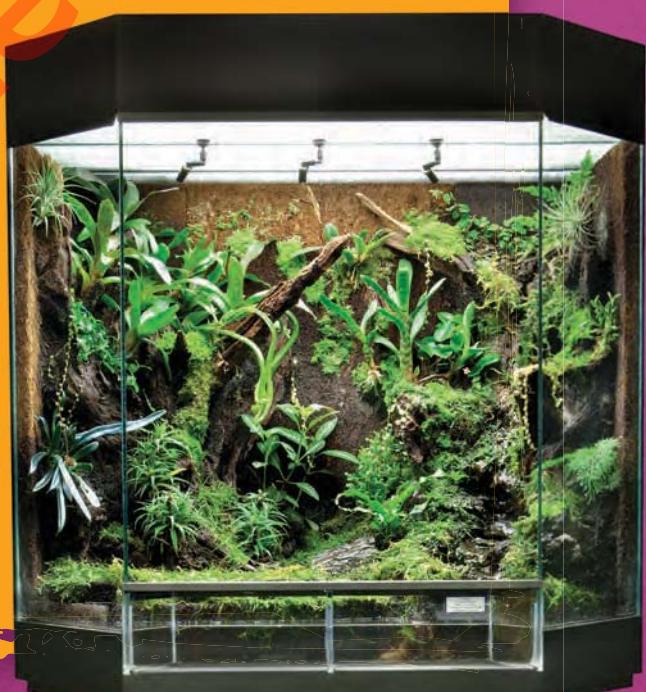
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The Perfect Home for Unusual Pets

When people think about pets, they usually think of dogs, cats, or birds. These animals make great pets, of course, but not all pets have fur or feathers. Animals with scales, gills, or eight legs can make ideal pets too. Snakes and geckos can be pets. So can salamanders and tarantulas. However, most pet owners do not want these types of pets roaming freely around their homes.

That is where **terrariums** come in. These enclosures are like aquariums for pet fish, but they are made for **terrestrial** animals. Terrariums come in many shapes and sizes. Sometimes, they are used to grow plants. But they are also used to keep pets, such as bugs, reptiles, and amphibians. Pet owners place exactly what these animals need inside the terrariums. They can **tailor** the terrarium's habitat to the specific requirements of the pet they choose to keep. For example, a terrarium can reflect a desert habitat for a pet snake. Or it can contain a wet habitat for pet frogs.

Regardless of the type of pet or habitat, terrariums allow pet owners to watch their pets without the worry of the critters escaping from their homes.



terrarium

A boy places his royal python in a desert-themed habitat.

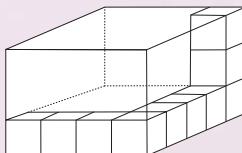


LET'S EXPLORE MATH

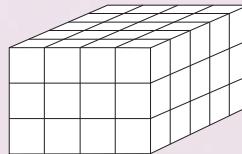
Brothers Brad and Louie want to buy a new pet frog. They have a small terrarium they once used for a hermit crab. They want to determine its volume to see if it is large enough for a frog. They both use 1-inch cubes but have different strategies. Use the pictures of their strategies to answer the questions.

1. How are the strategies similar? How are they different?
2. Which strategy would you use and why?
3. Do you think this tank is the right size for a pet frog? Why or why not?

Brad's Strategy



Louie's Strategy



Raising Reptiles

People who want a different type of pet than everyone else might consider reptiles. Many types of reptiles make good pets. They **thrive** in the environment that pet owners create inside terrariums.

Bearded Dragon

In the wild, bearded dragons are only found in Australia. But people don't have to live Down Under to see one. Bearded dragons are a very popular type of lizard to keep as a pet because they like to be around people. They are also easy to care for and feed.

Male bearded dragons grow to be 12–24 inches (30–61 centimeters) long from their head to the tip of their tail. Females are typically smaller than males. Usually, a terrarium that is about 48 × 18 × 21 in. (122 × 46 × 53 cm) is big enough for a single bearded dragon. A larger tank may be needed for a bearded dragon over 20 in. (51 cm) long.

Since they are **native** to Australia, bearded dragons are used to a hot and dry environment. Even as pets, they need a home that is hot and **dry**. Terrarium lights replicate their natural habitat. The lights provide heat that **mimics** the sun. Their home should also have a log or branch for climbing. Bearded dragons like to hide, so including a cardboard box or other hiding place is an easy way to keep them entertained.

A bearded dragon tries to catch a grasshopper.



LET'S EXPLORE MATH

A typical bearded dragon terrarium has dimensions of $48 \times 18 \times 21$ inches.

1. Sketch the terrarium. Label length, width, and height.
2. Find the volume of the tank.



Typically, bearded dragons need surface temperatures from 95 to 110 degrees Fahrenheit (35 to 43.3 degrees Celsius). All reptiles are **cold-blooded**, so they need heat from the sun or lights to warm their bodies. They cannot maintain a **consistent** body temperature on their own like warm-blooded animals, such as humans, dogs, and cats, can. Therefore, reptiles spend large portions of the day **basking** in the sun or light to warm themselves.

When they are not warming themselves, bearded dragons are fun pets to watch. They get their name from the “beards” on the bottom of their throats. They often puff out their beards, wave their arms, and bob their heads up and down. It is also fun to watch them hunt for crickets and worms that owners place in their tanks. They are even able to perch on a person’s shoulder!

Bearded dragons can live 10–15 years in captivity. Their tame and friendly behavior makes bearded dragons a fun choice for a pet.



Corn Snake

Another good choice for a first-time reptile owner is a pet corn snake. These snakes are not **venomous**, so they are not dangerous. In fact, corn snakes are very calm. There are many different species of corn snakes. Depending on the species, they range in color from reddish-brown to white with colorful spots or bands.

A corn snake wraps around a branch in a terrarium.

