

La biodiversité, un défi pour demain

INSTALLATIONS TERMINOLOGY IN PLAIN ENGLISH



Funded by the
Erasmus+ Programme
of the European Union



1st Primary School of Diavata



Vivarium

According to the Oxford English Dictionary, the term “vivarium” is defined as:

- *“An enclosure, container, or structure adapted or prepared for keeping animals under semi-natural conditions for observation or study or as pets; an aquarium or terrarium.”*

Vivariums come in many different forms and are named according to the type of habitat they offer and the kind of creatures that live in the environment. These biotopes are used to house fish, corals, crustaceans, reptiles, plants, and amphibians, and each has its own name.





Aquarium

An aquarium is the correct term that's used to describe a container made of glass, acrylic, or plastic that's used to house fish, corals, sponges, invertebrates, and aquatic plants.

Modern aquariums are fitted with a filtration system to keep the water clean and free from harmful toxins, a heater to keep the water warm for tropical fish, and a lighting unit to promote live plant growth.

Insectarium

An insectarium is used for keeping insects for study purposes or as pets. For example, many school science labs keep a simple insectarium containing stick insects.



Terrarium

The term “terrarium” comes from the Latin word “Terra,” which translates as “earth.”

The suffix “arium” is applied to any noun that describes an artificially created habitat in which plants or animals are kept.



Quick Comparison Chart

Here's a comparison chart that illustrates the inhabitants of aquariums, terrariums, and vivaria in general.

	Aquarium	Vivarium	Terrarium
Same Container	Yes	Sometimes	Sometimes
Environment	Water	Varied	Generally arid
Humidity	-	Varied	Low
CO2 injections	Sometimes	Sometimes	No
Water	Yes	Sometimes	No/Little
Land	No	Sometimes	Yes
Plants	Sometimes	Sometimes	Sometimes
Aquatic animals	Sometimes	Sometimes	No
Semi-aquatic animals	No	Sometimes	No
Terrestrial animals	No	Sometimes	Sometimes