Ecosystems

**Sources:**

[**http://pbskids.org/zoom/activities/sci/biomeinabaggie.html**](http://pbskids.org/zoom/activities/sci/biomeinabaggie.html)

**“I Can” statements:**

* Observe how living things impact the environment in which they live and the environment impacts living things.
* Observe and ask questions about the natural environment.
* Employ simple equipment and tools to gather data and extend the senses.

**Materials:**

* Clear plastic cups
* Sandwich bags
* Soil
* Rocks
* Seeds
* Water

**Procedure:**

1. Small layer of rocks at the bottom.
2. Pour a layer of soil into the cup. There should be about twice the amount of soil than rocks.
3. Plant the seeds by making a small trench in the middle of the cup, placing the seeds into the trench and lightly covering it with soil.
4. Water the soil and seeds until you see water collecting at the bottom of the cup in the rocks.
5. Place the cup into a sandwich bag and close it.
6. Place the cup in a sunny area. The plant should then grow with no further maintenance.

*\*\*\*Make sure that the bag remains closed. If the bag is closed, the water will remain in the bag, and the students will not have to water the plant. If possible, volunteers can give a short explanation of the water cycle (or draw on the board) to show why they do not have to water the ecosystem once the bag is closed.*

The seed has everything it needs to grow in the sandwich bag: nutrients from the soil, water, air in the bag, and it can make food for itself with the light from the sun. Everything inside the sandwich bag makes a perfect environment for a seed to grow.

Optional:

-Experiment with the amount of water in each of the cups, or vary the amount of light that they are exposed to. Over time, the students will be able to observe how those variable change the environment and growth of the seed.