

# EARTH GARDENS #9



## INDOOR SECTION : The Life Box

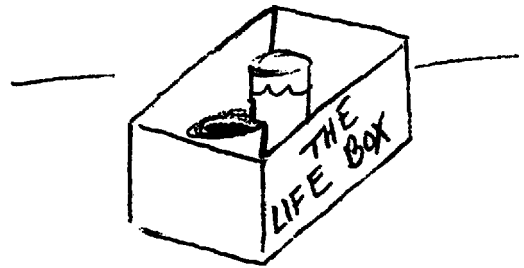
Grades 1-6  
1 hour, at most

### What You Will Learn :

\* You will discover the essential factors needed to sustain life.

### Materials Needed :

- 1) Shoe box, labeled "The Life Box"
- 2) 1 cup of soil (any container will do)
- 3) 1 container of water
- 4) Potted plant



### Steps :

- 1) Before class, put the cup of soil and the container of water in the "Life Box", then cover the box with its lid.
- 2) Circulate the "Life Box" among the students. Ask each student to open the box and note, or write down on a piece of paper, what they observe inside that would be important to all living things. After each student has examined the contents, they should put the lid back on the box and pass it to the next student.
- 3) Now ask the students what they saw in the box that would be essential to sustain life. There are a total of 4 things in the box; however, students can usually only answer that they saw soil and water. Have students look at the box again, and then ask what else is in the box besides soil and water.
- 4) Compare the "Life Box" to the potted plant.

### Wrap Up :

- 1) *How does the plant use the four life factors?*
- 2) *How do animals, including humans, use these four life factors?*

### Hint:

Tell students that each box contains the four things necessary for most life. Actually, three things are in the box: water, soil, and air. The fourth, light, enters when they open the box!