

Setting Up the Habitats

For Class Habitat:

As soon as pill bugs arrive!

Materials:

- 1 48 oz. storage food container
- Box cutter
- 35 Pill bugs from Carolina Biological
- Potting soil
- Decaying materials (wood, leaf litter collected from outdoors.)
- Spray bottle

Set Up:

- View Carolina Biological YouTube video for basic information, then follow the modified directions below. YouTube video on habitat setup (Carolina Biological):
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=s90Eknn9NVg>
- Using the **48 oz. container**, make plenty of slots in the lid with a box cutter to allow air in. (See image below.)
- Add potting soil to the bottom of the container to a depth of about 2 mm (~ 3/4 in.)
- Cover with yard leaf litter
- **Mist lightly** with water (use spray bottle)
- Add Pill bugs
- Add several thin slices of potato **peel** and/or apple **peel**. Place them under the leaf litter so that the class does not see it. This food will maintain the pill bugs until the students set up their own investigations.
- Replace lid on the top
- **NOTE: It is important to conceal the habitat from the class until you are ready to introduce it in Day 2!**

For Team Habitats:

Prepare the team habitats ahead of time for the students!

- Use the small white plastic containers for the team habitats (1 per team).
- The habitats will include everything the class habitat has, except on a smaller scale. Air holes should be made on the tops(lids) of the team habitats.
- Add the potting soil mix at a depth of ¾ inch., some leaf litter, small piece of bark and then **mist lightly**.
- Set up all the containers for the team mini-habitats, plastic spoons, gloves, and the class habitat in a central location that is accessible to students.
- **Students will add the pill bugs on Day 5; they will add their food choices on Day 6.**