

Houseplant for a Busy Family

Carla's mom wanted to get a houseplant, but she wanted one that wouldn't need lots of tending. She went online and learned about something called a vivarium, which is a self-contained garden (with plants, water, air and fertilized soil) in a glass container. The container can be completely sealed so no water or gases can get in or out. The info Carla's mom saw online said that plants in a sealed vivarium that are placed in a sunny area can live for a long time without needing anything.



Carla's mom brought up the idea of making a vivarium at dinner one night. Some family members were skeptical about what would happen to the plants in a vivarium. They knew that you can't always trust info from the Internet. Here's what they thought.

Mom: The plants will keep growing forever because plants have everything they need. They can make their own food as long as they have light.

Carla: The plants will stop growing but will still live because their growth is limited by how much carbon is in the container.

Marco: The plants will die because they require carbon dioxide and they will use up all the carbon dioxide in the container.

Grandma: The plants will die because they will use up all the water in the container.

Who do you agree with and why? It's OK to pick more than one person. Explain why you chose the answer(s) you did. In your explanation, focus on resources and processes that support plant life and growth.
