Draft a first-week Garden setup script

Perfect—this is where the Garden becomes *practical*.

Below is a **first-week Garden setup script**, written as a **ritualized, teachable sequence** rather than a black-box installer. It assumes **one Linux box**, one faculty gardener, and a small cohort of participants. You can run it solo or walk students through it line by line.

I'll give you:

1. A **conceptual Week-1 arc**
2. A **concrete bash-based setup script**
3. A **first agent activation**
4. A **Day-5 stopping point** (important)

Week 1: Bringing the Garden to Life

Pedagogical Aim (Week 1)

> Establish *conditions*, not outcomes.

By the end of the first week:

- The Garden exists
- Agents are alive but weak
- Humans understand where agency lives
- Nothing "impressive" has happened yet (this is good)

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1. System Assumptions

- Linux (Ubuntu/Debian)
- User has sudo
- Python ≥ 3.10
- git installed
- Internet access only for initial model download

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2. The Garden Setup Script (Day 1)

Save as: `init_garden.sh`

```
#!/usr/bin/env bash

echo "🌱 Initializing the Artificial Life Writing Garden"
echo "------------------------------------------------"

# 1. Create core directory structure
mkdir -p
alife-garden/{seeds,agents,mutations,survivors,extinct,audio,logs}

cd alife-garden || exit 1

# 2. Initialize git (the evolutionary record)
git init
git config user.name "Garden"
git config user.email "garden@localhost"

# 3. Create README (the Garden's first utterance)
cat << 'EOF' > README.md
# Artificial Life Writing Garden

This directory is a living system.
Files may reproduce, mutate, persist, or die.
Nothing here is final.
```

```
EOF

# 4. Seed directory markers
touch seeds/.keep mutations/.keep survivors/.keep extinct/.keep

git add .
git commit -m "Initial Garden emergence"

echo "🌿 Garden structure created."
```

Run:

```
chmod +x init_garden.sh
./init_garden.sh
```

Stop.
Read the README aloud.
This matters.

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3. Seeding the Garden (Day 2)

Add **3–7 seed texts** only. Scarcity matters.

Example:

```
nano seeds/seed_01.txt
```

Suggested seed types:

- a chant
- a paragraph of theory
- a student-written fragment
- a found text (KJV, Joyce, myth, instruction manual)

Rule:

> No explanations. No metadata. Just text.

Then:

```
git add seeds/
git commit -m "Initial textual seeds introduced"
```

---

4. Installing a Small Model (Day 2–3)

Use **ollama** for Week 1 simplicity.

```
curl -fsSL https://ollama.com/install.sh | sh
ollama pull mistral:7b
```

Test:

```
ollama run mistral:7b "Repeat this sentence with a slight change."
```

Explain to students:

> “This is not the author. This is compost.”

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5. The First Agent (Day 3)

Create `agents/repeater.py`

```
import random
from pathlib import Path
import subprocess

SEEDS = Path("../seeds")
OUT = Path("../mutations")
OUT.mkdir(exist_ok=True)

seed = random.choice(list(SEEDS.glob("*.txt")))
```

```
text = seed.read_text()

prompt = f"Repeat the following text, but allow slight
drift:\n\n{text}"

result = subprocess.run(
    ["ollama", "run", "mistral:7b", prompt],
    capture_output=True,
    text=True
)

mutation = OUT / f"{seed.stem}_repeat.txt"
mutation.write_text(result.stdout)
```

Run it once:

```
python3 agents/repeater.py
```

Then:

```
git add mutations/
git commit -m "First mutation event"
```

Pause.
Read the mutation aloud.

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6. Selection by Attention (Day 4)

Ask participants:

- Which mutation survives?
- Which should disappear?
- Which should be read aloud tomorrow?

Selection actions:

- Move chosen file to `survivors/`
- Delete one mutation
- Copy one line into a new file

Example:

```
mv mutations/seed_01_repeat.txt survivors/
rm mutations/seed_02_repeat.txt
```

Then:

```
git add -A
git commit -m "Human selection applied"
```

Explain explicitly:

> “This commit is fitness.”

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7. Introduce Time (Day 5)

Add a cron job or manual ritual—not automation yet.

Example (manual):

```
echo "Run one agent per day. No batching." > logs/rules.txt
```

Commit:

```
git add logs/rules.txt
git commit -m "Temporal constraint introduced"
```

Stop here.

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8. What You Do *Not* Do in Week 1

- No dashboards
- No evaluation metrics
- No genre goals
- No plot talk
- No optimization
- No scaling

Week 1 is about **listening for life**, not producing text.

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9. The Closing Question for Students

End Week 1 by asking (and not answering):

> "What, exactly, is alive here—and what is not?"

That question *is* the Garden's root system.

If you want, next I can:

- Write **Week 2: Introducing the Distorter & the Archivist**
- Design a **Wake-specific seed ecology**
- Add **audio as evolutionary pressure**
- Or formalize this as a **course handout or lab manual**

This is already enough to begin. 🌱