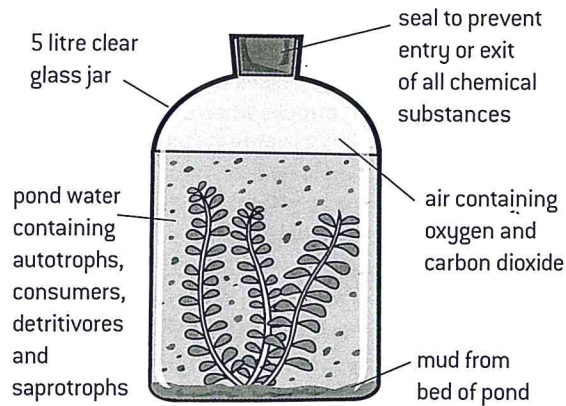


## Mesocosms

- A mesocosm is a small experimental area set up to demonstrate how an ecosystem has the potential to be sustainable over long periods of time.
- As long as nutrients are recycled, an ecosystem only requires a supply of energy, usually light, to continue indefinitely.



- Autotrophs produce carbon compounds and regenerate oxygen for cell respiration.
- Saprotrophs decompose dead organic matter and recycle nutrients.
- Consumers and detritivores may not be essential but are a normal part of an ecosystem so are usually included.
- It is unethical to include large animals in a mesocosm because it might not provide enough food or oxygen.