

WORKSHOP OVERVIEW | COMPOST IN A BOTTLE



Overview:

In this activity, students work in groups to create compost bottles using recycled materials and things they can find in nature. By the end of this activity, students will be able to understand the process of composting and its benefits to the environment. They will even track their observations to the compost in their soda bottle compost bins!

Activity Duration: 1 hour

OBJECTIVE

- Track changes to the soil
- Understand how worms make soil

MATERIALS NEEDED

- 2-liter soda bottle
- Scissors
- Compost materials (green materials like fruit and vegetable scraps, dried leaves, and brown materials like cardboard or paper)
- Soil
- Worms! (have students help you find)
- Spoon or stick for mixing



ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

1. Gather materials
2. Cut the top off of the soda bottle, leaving a large opening for adding compost materials

PRE LESSON

1. Review the concept of composting and its benefits. Explain how composting reduces waste and provides healthy soil for plants!
2. Break the class into groups, and give each group a soda bottle. Explain that they will be transforming it into a mini compost bin.
3. Have students add a layer of soil to the bottom of the bottle. Explain to students that this will serve to absorb the liquid produced during the composting process.
4. have students add a layer of green compost materials on top of the soil. Then, add brown material.
5. Continue alternating layers until the bottle is full, ending with a layer of soil.
6. Mix the layers gently with a spoon or stick.
7. Add your worms! Have students look for worms outside on a rainy day.
8. Replace the top of the bottle and secure it with tape. Explain to students that the compost bottle should be kept in a warm place and turned occasionally to speed up the composting process.
9. Have students draw their observations using the sheet (attached). Students can complete this activity every week for 2 months to track changes.

DURING THE LESSON

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DAY: _____

