

INDOORS, OUTDOORS ✧ GRADES 2-6 ✧ FALL, SPRING ✧ PROJECT



Compost Bags

DESCRIPTION

Students manage natural decomposition by creating their own compost bag.

OBJECTIVE

To introduce composting as a way of managing the nutrient cycle.

TEACHER BACKGROUND

This project will stimulate students' curiosity and serve as a good motivator for making garden compost. Prepare the bag with them in Part One without telling them what it is for. Let the students speculate. Start this project one month prior to making compost in the garden. This will allow the organic substances in the bag time to decompose.

Note: Before closing the bag, breathe air into it. This will keep the mixture from becoming anaerobic. If anaerobic bacteria become active it can cause the decaying matter to smell.



MATERIALS

PART ONE

- ✧ Observation Sheet, one per student, p. 416
- ✧ One large plastic garbage bag with closing tie
- ✧ One gallon (3.79 L) of wet soil
- ✧ Three grapes
- ✧ Five pieces of plastic cup
- ✧ One handful of grass clippings
- ✧ Three leaves of lettuce
- ✧ Two nails
- ✧ One slice of white bread
- ✧ Three squares of wet toilet paper
- ✧ One slice of whole wheat bread
- ✧ Science journals

PART TWO

- ✧ Sifting screen
- ✧ Walnut shell
- ✧ Apple

