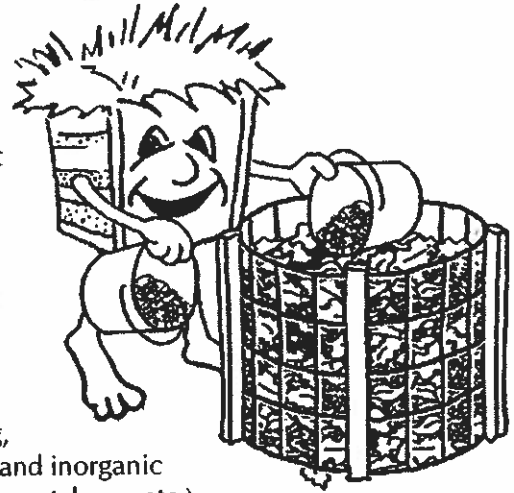


# Composting Activity Ideas

## Pre-Presentation Activity

Ask students to place all of their apple cores, banana peels, peach pits, etc., from lunch in a special container. (This is best done the day or lunch period before the actual presentation.) Ask the class to estimate how much the organic waste weighs. Ask them to guess how much waste the class would make in a week of school. If possible, weigh the material.



## Post-Presentation Activities

**Organic Organizer:** After the presentation on composting, have the students help you sort a pile of materials into organic and inorganic categories. (Materials could include food waste, paper, plastic, metal can, etc.). Then, examine the organic pile to see which materials can be placed in a composter. Finally, discuss where the other materials should be placed (recycling bin, donated, etc.).

**Eye Spy Plants:** How many things in the room are made from plants? Think trees (wood furniture, paper), dyes, fabric and clothing, etc.. Plants grow in soil. Why is compost important to plants?

## Classroom Activities

**Build a Mini-Composter I:** Put a spoonful of soil on the bottom of a plastic plate. Add a layer of fruit, vegetable, or plant scraps. Add another layer of soil (2-3 spoonfuls). Place a bean or pea seed on the soil. Cover with 2-3 spoonfuls of soil. Water and watch. What happens to the compost? What happens to the seed?

**Build a Mini-Composter II:** Cut off the top of a plastic 2-litre pop bottle. Put a layer of soil in the bottom. Add a layer of organic matter (food scraps or yard waste). Continue this layering, incorporating brown (dried) materials as well. Sprinkle with water. Over the next month, look at the contents of the mini-composter at least once a week. Dampen if necessary. What happens to the green and brown material? At the end of the month, use the bottle and contents to plant seeds of peas, beans, or lettuce. Enjoy the fruits of your labour.

**Variation:** Place the mini-composters in different locations—on top of a refrigerator, in a refrigerator, outdoors, in the dark, under constant light, etc.. How do these conditions effect the way the materials decompose?

# Composting Word Search

G R O W E V R E  
R E C Y C L E R  
E D Y A O D U A  
E U Y R M I S S  
N C E D P A E R  
A E B R O W N T  
I H D A S O I L  
R Y N A T U R E

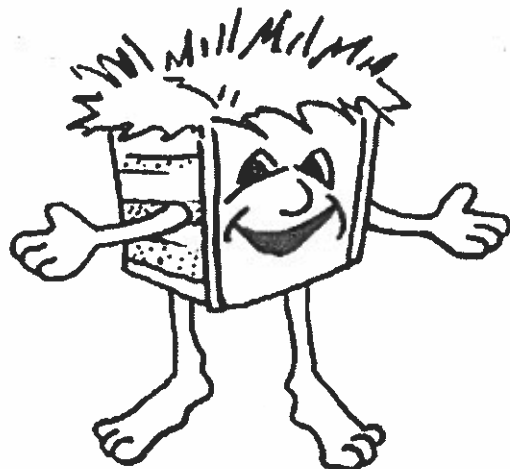
Can you find the following words hidden in the letters above? Words may run from left to right, or from top to bottom. Letters may be used more than once.

air brown compost green grow nature recycle reduce reuse soil yard

Write the leftover letters, in order from left to right, top to bottom, to spell out a sentence below:

-----!

**Clue:** The leftover letters, when written in order from left to right, top to bottom, will spell out:  
"EVERY DAY IS EARTH DAY"



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