

School Compost Kick-Off

Each classroom is expected to address this lesson prior to our “Compost Kick-off” assembly

Lesson Objectives:

- To create a classroom generated composting guide poster. Highlighting the “dos and don’ts” to composting at Greenway.
- Each classroom will create their own informational poster, highlight what can and can not be composted.
- Posters will be displayed in the classroom to help solidify and establish students’ composting habits. Sample ideas:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1-hMz6WYSeKoalLo68kUDBqXRvR38lyOgf5jWsYJZcno/edit?usp=sharing>



Materials:

- A sample of student’s lunches as examples
- Posterboard

Introductory Activities:

- Depending on your student’s pre-existing level of understanding and or their grade level, you might want to start with a brainstorming session on what is composting and what they believe can or can not be composted. See links below for video support.

Summary of Tasks:

- Working in small groups, or as individuals, students will be asked to audit their packed lunch. It is strongly advised that this lesson be done before lunch hour.

- Students will be asked to list all aspects of their lunch that they feel could be composted and to explain their thoughts. As an addition, students could be asked to do the opposite and list what is not compostable in their lunch and why.
- NOTE: For now, the only organic material we will not be accepted as compost will be meat, meat by-products, and any dairy. (Meat, meat by-products, and dairy are compostable. However, they are more likely to attract unwanted pests prior to breaking down)
- We will be composting paper towels, ' dirty paper' such as paper plates and paper bowls, pencil shavings, small amounts of bread/rice or pasta, and any fruits or vegetables.
- Students will then select their top picks to use as examples on their classroom posters.

Additional:

- Depending on your student's undertaking and or grade level, you may want to further discuss topics such as the importance of composting, organic materials, and or food waste.
- Further lessons can reflect on the importance of composting.
 - Landfill capacities
 - Nutrient cycle/ Plant life cycle
 - The beneficial use of fresh compost in and outside of the school

References:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1-hMz6WYSeKoaLlo68kUDBqXRvR38lyOgf5jWsYJZcno>

<https://winnipeg.ca/waterandwaste/recycle/composting.stm>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vA5DMcEwQFE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q5s4n9r-JGU>