

Composting

Objectives:

- Introduce students to the process of composting

Materials:

- 3 Two Liter Soda Bottles per group
- Scissors
- Water
- Tape
- Thumbtack
- Soil
- Plant-based food scraps

Preparation:

- Have the students bring in food scraps from home if they can.

Introduction:

- The waste left over from food isn't completely useless. If left to decompose for enough time, it can become a good fertilizer with nutrients for new plants to grow in. We will participate in this process.

Activities:

1. Have the students get into groups, each creating a soda bottle composter.
2. Cut off the top few inches of one bottle, the bottom of another, and top & bottom of the third. (Save the top of one of them)
3. Use the thumbtacks to poke holes into a bottle cap and put it onto the bottle without the bottom. Place this top down into the bottle without its top. Use tape to keep them together
4. Put the bottle without a top or bottom on top of the face down bottle and tape them together.
5. Fill the container with food scraps, as well as some soil. Shake and mix it up
6. Tape the top part you saved onto the end of the container, and make sure it is capped
7. Use the thumbtack to poke some holes into the sides.

Wrap-Up:

- In 2-3 months the compost should be completely decomposed and ready. Clean up, and

explain what will happen. When it is done, revisit the compost and show that it does not smell bad anymore but is instead earthy and fertile. Use the compost in the garden!

Sources:

Adapted from <http://pbskids.org/zoom/activities/sci/compost.html>