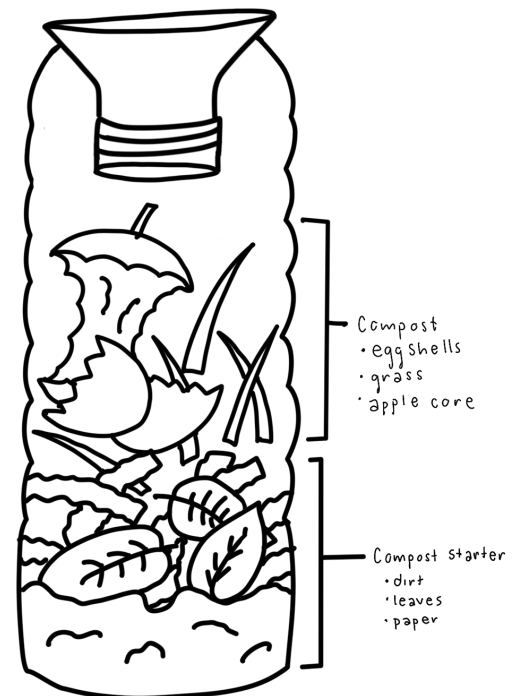


Compost is a rich, earthy mixture made of decomposed organic matter. It is a fantastic fertilizer and contains all the nutrients needed to help plants grow! In this module, you will make your own class compost and watch as it decomposes. Students will document the progress of their compost through weekly diagrams. This can be done individually, or in a class compost journal - just like the journal kept at Roseridge! This activity will later be used to compare how organic waste and plastic waste decompose.

MATERIALS

- 1 empty large plastic bottle
- Scissors or a sharp knife
- Nail
- Shredded paper scraps
- Dirt from outside
- Organic waste (food scraps, eggshells, grass clippings, etc.)
- Dead leaves
- Small plate to hold compost bottle
- Spray bottle with water



STEPS

1. Clean the bottle and peel off the label.
2. Use the nail to poke a few small holes around the sides and bottom of the bottle to allow air flow and drainage.
3. Use the scissors to cut off the top of the bottle approximately 1-2 inches below the neck of the bottle. Place aside.
4. Place the bottle on the small plate and begin to fill with your compost starter: dead leaves, dirt, and shredded paper. Spray this with water.
5. Add your organic waste.
6. Place the bottle top upside down, on top of the open bottle. This will help to funnel water into the bottle each day.
7. Have students draw a diagram of their compost in a bottle, labelling the layers and what they placed inside. Check in on the bottle weekly and update diagrams as students observe the contents decomposing!
8. Place the bottle in a sunny spot and spray it daily to keep the contents damp. When not spraying with water, place a small towel over the top of the bottle.

COMPOSTING QUIZ

In this module, you learned about compost! Check your understanding by responding to the questions below.

1. What is **compost**?

- a. Dirt.
- b. A mixture of wood and rocks that protect plants.
- c. Decomposed organic matter used as plant fertilizer.
- d. A liquid used as plant fertilizer.

2. How long does it take organic matter to turn into compost at Roseridge?

- a. 12 months
- b. 6 months
- c. 3 months
- d. 1 month

3. What ingredient(s) are needed to make good compost? Select all that apply.

- a. Carbon
- b. Nitrogen
- c. Sugar
- d. Water
- e. Oxygen

4. Which of the following can be composted? Select all that apply.

- a. Banana peels
- b. Egg shells
- c. Plastic water bottles
- d. Wood
- e. Paper napkins
- f. Granola bar wrappers
- g. Vegetable scraps

5. What do you think it means when waste is "organic"? Write your answer below.
