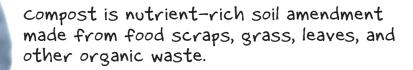


# Composting at Roseridge How Nature Breaks Down Waste



## What is Compost?



At Roseridge, compost is used to help farms and gardens grow. It takes 12 months for compost to be ready — and the science behind it is pretty cool

composting only works when we put the right materials in and keep the wrong stuff out.

#### Your Task

Look at each item on the next page. Decide if it can be composted or not. Then answer the questions below.

> circle the items that belong in the compost.

cross out the items that don't belong



## Teacher Resource - Composting at Roseridge

This lesson supports Grade 4 science outcomes in Alberta's Waste and Our World unit, focusing on decomposition, nutrient cycles, and organic recovery through composting. It directly reinforces key visuals, terms, and learning prompts from the Roseridge educational video.

This activity helps students understand that not all waste belongs in the garbage, and that the sorting decisions they make in class are the same ones that shape their homes and communities.

#### Learning connection

This activity helps students understand that composting is more than just throwing food in a bin - it's a living process supported by biology, chemistry, and behaviour.

Through this activity, students will:

- \* Explore the role of organisms like fungi, bacteria, worms, and insects
- \* Identify which materials support good compost, and which contaminate it
- \* Learn about the carbon-nitrogen balance and how Roseridge monitors temperature, moisture, and smell
- \* connect composting to real outcomes: growing plants, supporting farms, and reducing landfill pressure

This lesson builds scientific reasoning, systems thinking, and environmental literacy, and gives students a clear role in making compost work at home or at school.

#### Instructions

- 1. Provide students with the compost sorting worksheet.
- 2. Ask them to circle items that can go in the compost and cross out items that do not belong
- 3. Lead a class discussion using the reflection questions to connect compost to science and sustainability.

#### classroom Extensions

- I. Compost vs. Soil Grow Test: Plant seeds in three cups: one with soil, one with compost, one with both.
- 2. Make a Compost Recipe Poster Highlight what compost needs: carbon, nitrogen, moisture, oxygen, and time.
- 3. Compost Audit what does your class throw out that could've been composted? Tally it up.

## Task Challenge Answers

#### Does NOT belong

- \* Plastic spoon
- \* Yogurt cup
- \* chip bag
- \* Empty peanut butter jar



### Belongs in Compost

- \* Banana peel
- \* chicken bones
- \* Newspaper
- \* Apple core
- \* Egg shells
- \* Tea bag
- \* Bread crust
- \* Paper towel with food on it
- \* Leaves and grass
- \* Pizza box



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