Camp Fire

MINNESOTA

My nature connection

COMPOSTING 101

GRADES: K+
TIME: 15 min.

WHAT IS COMPOSTING?

In order to understand compost, we need to understand decomposition. Decomposition is when living matter dies and is consumed by organisms known as decomposers. This breaks down the material into smaller and smaller parts. Common decomposers are bacteria, earthworms, fungi, and insects. Composting is the disposal of once living material (fruits, vegetables, and other plant or food scraps) which are then set to decompose in a controlled environment.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED

- Pen or Pencil

- Compost Bin

- Mixture of food scraps and yard waster

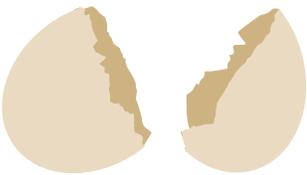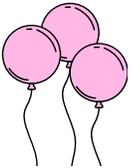## COMPOSTING FOR THE EARTH

TRY IT OUT!

1. Find an outdoor spot that is preferably cool and shaded
2. Pick out a bin- can be large or small depending on your space
3. Begin adding yard waste and food scraps. Moisten it with water if necessary to keep it damp. Avoid adding dairy to prevent odors and critters.

There are many reasons why composting is great for the environment. First, putting food scraps and compostable items into the compost instead of the trash helps cut down on the volume of things going into landfills. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, compostable items such as food scraps and yard waste make up 28 percent of what we throw away!

Composting also helps build extra healthy soil. The soil created from composting is made with many healthy nutrients that help plants grow and reduce the need for using pesticides and fertilizers, which can also be harmful to the environment.

WHERE DOES IT GO?

Draw a line from each item to where you would dispose of it

TRASH

RECYCLING

COMPOST

NOTE: What is recyclable, compostable, or trash depends on where you live! Double check with your city's guidelines to help understand where to dispose of items.

Composting At Home

Benefits and instructions about how to compost at home.

US EPA / Feb 10

www.epa.gov/recycle/composting-home

SURVEY FEEDBACK

Please help us and give us your feedback.

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