

Composting

Concept—Composting is a way to reduce waste

CURRICULUM LINK:

Geography Curriculum and Science Curriculum—Environmental Awareness and Care strand

Experiment

You will need:

- Garden
- Apple core
- Scrunched piece of newspaper
- Scrunched plastic bag
- Shovel

1. Dig three holes approximately 30cm deep.
2. Place one item (apple core, newspaper or plastic bag) in each of the holes and cover with soil.
3. Identify where each of the three items have been buried so you will be able to find them in two weeks.
4. After two weeks dig up each of the three items (but do not remove) to see how much they have decomposed.
5. Take photos or draw pictures of what they now look like and compare how much each has decomposed.
6. Cover the three items with soil and leave for another two weeks.
7. Repeat steps 4 and 5.

Composting is a great way to help reduce the amount of waste going to landfill. It also is a way of reusing the sun's original energy. How? The sun provides energy for an apple tree to grow, and the tree uses nutrients and water from the soil to produce apples. By composting an apple core, its nutrients can be used by another plant to grow.

Newspapers, grass clippings and any fruit and vegetable scraps are all good to compost. Plastic bags do not decompose.

