

Lesson 7: Compost Relay Race

Grade Level:

3rd Grade

Concepts Taught:

composting, evaluating and synthesizing, sorting, classifying

Activity Time:

Allow 20 minutes for background instruction and for one cycle of the relay. Allow more time for multiple relay cycles

Essential Questions:

- What are the 3 main ingredients needed in compost?
- Will a compost pile work if one of the “ingredients” is missing?

NC Core/Essential Standards:

Healthful Living Objectives

3.PCH.1.2; 3.ICR1.2; 3.ICR.1.5;
3.MEH.1.2

Materials:

2 plastic hula hoops
A Variety of plastic fruits/
vegetables, meat/cheese (or use
laminated pictures)
Watering cans, kids plastic shovels
plastic Ziploc bags of soil
newspaper
silk plants/leaves
small, hand-held personal fans

*Note: There should be enough materials so that each student can choose an item during the relay and that the materials can be divided equally between 2 teams of students (i.e. each team should have a watering can)

Objectives:

- Students will learn the three major groups of ingredients needed to prepare compost.
- Students will identify and evaluate items to decide if they can be composted.

Procedure:**Activity Preparation:**

All materials should be piled up at one end of the relay space (materials can be combined into a single pile from which both teams will choose items or 2 separate piles – one for each team). Hula-hoops should be placed at the other end of the relay space to mark the home base for each team.

Activity:

1. Divide students into 2 teams.
2. Provide students with background information about the 3 major groups of compost ingredients (greens, browns, and things from the environment).
3. Students should run (if outside) or walk (if inside) to the other side of the relay space and choose one item from the pile that would be a good ingredient for compost and bring it back to the team’s hoop.
4. Once each student has had a chance to choose an item, all items are to be identified as green, brown, or thing from the environment.
5. Then items should be grouped with 1 green item, 1 brown item, and 1 thing from the environment to form compost “piles”.
6. For a competitive dimension teams can be awarded points for each “pile” they created with point deductions for any meat/cheese items they have.

Relay can be repeated as many times as wanted.

