

Lesson 1: What Can We Compost?

Grade Level:

3rd Grade

Concepts Taught:

Sorting, identification

Essential Questions:

- What is compost made of?
- What types of items can go into a compost pile?

NC CORE/Essential Standards:

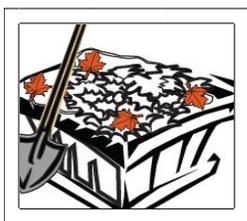
ELA: Text Types and Purposes:
2a,2b,2c,2d
Math 3.NBT.1

Materials:

Copies of the worksheet “What Can We Compost” for each student or use one transparency

Objectives:

- Students will sort and identify items that can be composted.



Procedure:

1. Review the teacher background section on compost.
2. Have each student name one thing they throw away each day and write each item on half of the board.
3. Explain to students that not all the items must go into the trashcan. Some can be recycled, reused, or composted.
4. Explain to students that composting is a way to recycle **organic** (plant or animal) material. Items that can be composted include food waste such as orange peels, banana peels, potato peelings, bread crusts, eggshells, coffee grounds, and other non-food items such as shredded newspaper, teabags, leaves, grass, and sticks.
4. On the other half of the board, make four column headings: recycle, reuse, compost, and trash. Go back through the list of brainstormed trash items and have the students name where each item should go.

Recycle	Reuse	Compost	Trash

Key:

Can be Composted: Leaves, branches, banana peel, vegetables, grass, hay, sticks, apple core

Cannot be composted:

Oil, can, boots, books, cheese, bones, turkey, paint

NOTE: animal products such as cheese, bones, and turkey should only be composted in large-scale or commercial-type composting processes, not in classroom or residential compost bins

Extensions/Modifications:

1. Using the worksheet below, have students identify which items can be composted and which cannot.
2. Using old magazines or catalogs have students create a collage showing items that can be composted.

Composting in the Classroom

Lesson 1

NAME _____

What can we compost?

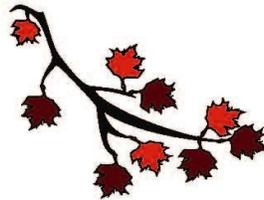
Make an X on things that do not go in a compost pile.
Circle the things that can go in a compost pile.



leaves



oil



branches



banana peel



can



vegetables



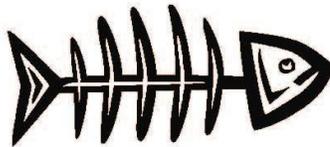
boots



books



cheese



bones



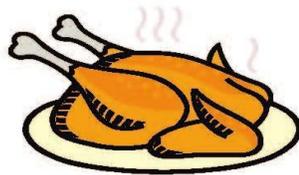
grass



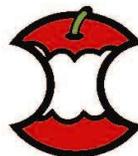
hay



sticks



turkey



apple core



paint