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Food Webs Activity for Kids

Compost DIY

 Duration: **30-60 min**

 Difficulty: **Easy**

 Cost: **\$0 to \$5**

Use microbial decomposition to turn food waste into fertilizer!

Material List

- 1 Pile of twigs
- 1 Pile of dry leaves
- 1 Bucket of food waste such as egg shells, coffee grounds, tea bags, apple cores, orange and banana peels
- 1 Pair of non-latex gloves
- 1 Large bowl for mixing
- 1 Large plant pot or other container with holes on the bottom
- 1 Watering can with water

Note: Do not use meat as part of the food waste it attracts flies, smells & can have bad microbes.

Instructions

- 1 Put on your gloves.
- 2 Mix all your food waste together in a large bowl.
- 3 Add a layer of dry twigs at the bottom of the large flower pot.
- 4 Then add a layer of food waste on top of the twigs.
- 5 Next, add a layer of dry leaves.
- 6 Using the watering can, sprinkle water over the top until damp.
- 7 Leave your compost to decompose naturally for 3-6 months.
- 8 The process is slow but eventually you will have a nutrient-rich material for gardening.

How It Works

Decomposition is nature's way of recycling. Dead plants and animals are broken down into basic nutrients that become part of the Earth. Decomposition happens when decomposers – such as worms, bacteria, and fungi – eat and digest plant and animal remains. Without decomposition, dead organisms would just pile up!