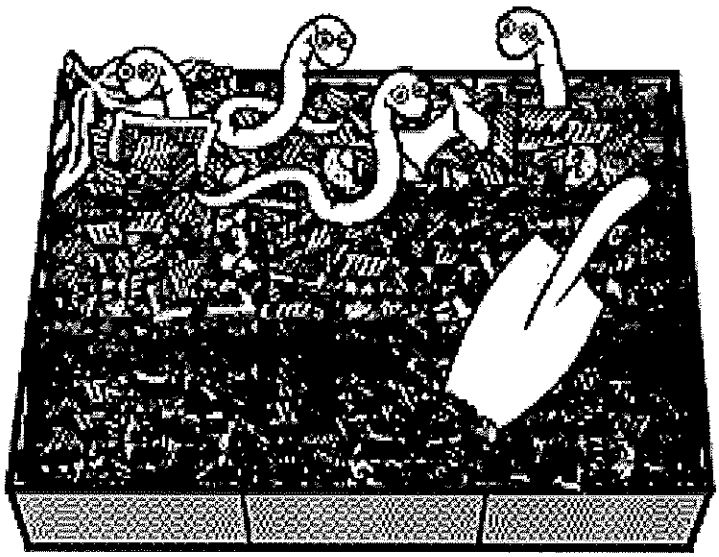
Composting and Recycling Activity Sheets



Activities for the Classroom

My Worm Biography! **Name:** _____

Create your own worm biography by completing the sentences below.

My worm's name is _____

My worm is _____ inches long.

My worm feels like _____

My worm moves around by _____

My worm likes to _____

My worm likes to eat _____

I do not feed my worm _____

My worm helps the soil by _____

My worm likes to live in _____

If my worm could talk, it would say _____

If my worm were a superhero, it would _____

If my worm had a superhero buddy, its name would be _____

And it would _____

_____ **The Worm** **Name**_____
(name)

Fill in the blanks with the appropriate type of word to create a silly story!

It was feeding time at the worm bin, and not a(n) _____ too soon.
(measurement of time)

_____ the worm was getting awfully _____. "I wonder what kind
(worm name) (adjective)

of _____ I will be _____ today, " _____ the worm
(noun) (verb ending in "ing") (worm name)

thought. "It better be_____. Yesterday, all I got to _____ was
(adjective) (verb)

a _____, and that was really _____. "The lid to the bin opened,
(noun) (adjective)

and _____ saw that familiar _____. It was the same _____
(worm name) (body part) (same body part)

that came every feeding day. _____ the worm waited with _____.
(worm name) (feeling or emotion)

"_____!" _____ the worm shouted. "It's a _____!
(exclamation) (worm name) (noun)

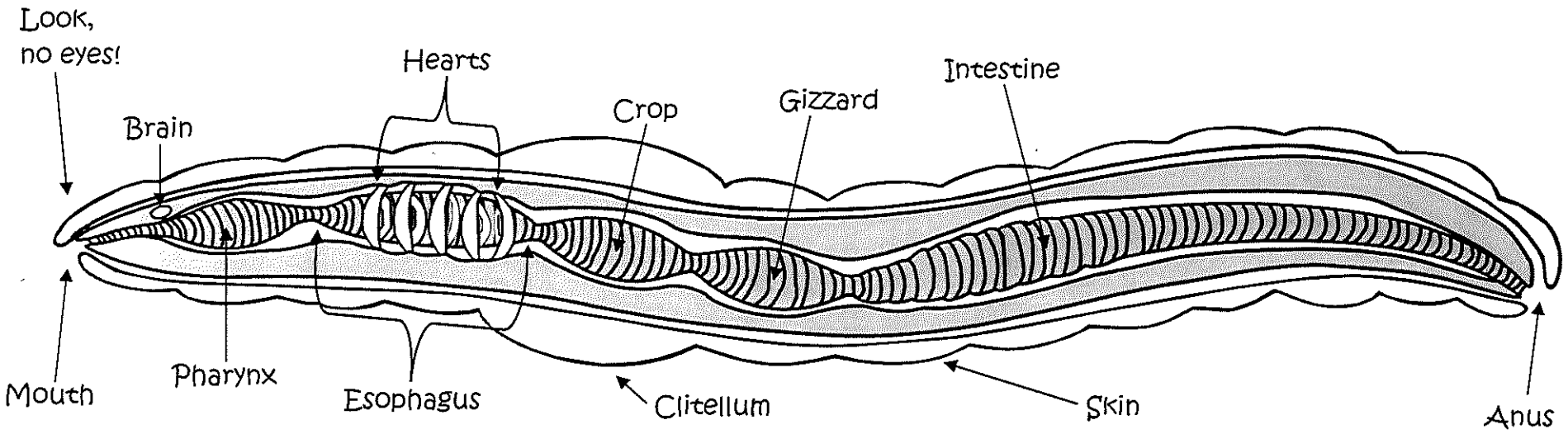
This will keep me very _____ until next feeding time." With that,_____
(adjective) (worm name)

the worm went to bed with a very _____ tummy.
(adjective)

Worm Anatomy

Worms are very important to the health of the planet! Worms eat over half their weight every day, and 8 redworms can produce 1,500 babies within 6 months!

Color the different parts of the worm below.



Eyes?: They don't have eyes, but they can tell the difference between light and dark.
Brain: (BLUE) Can you find their tiny brain?
Skin: (RED) Worms breath through their skin, but it must be kept moist.
Hearts: (PINK) Worms have 5 pairs of hearts.
Mouth: Food is given a push from the nose into the mouth.
Pharynx: (ORANGE) Like a human mouth it moves the food to the esophagus.
Esophagus: (YELLOW) The Esophagus moistens food to aid digestion.
Crop: (BROWN) A holding area for food and other things to wait to be digested.
Gizzard: (GREEN) Food is ground up into tiny pieces using bits of sand and soil.
Intestine: (PURPLE) Food is absorbed into the bloodstream.
Clitellum: The light colored band forms near the head and help create the cocoons that baby worms hatch from.
Anus: Rear-end: Waste disposal for anything not digested.

Name:_____ Date:_____

Compost Activity Sheet

Read the items below. Circle the ones that are organic and can be composted.

styrofoam cup	newspaper	grass clippings	peaches
plastic bag	orange peel	twigs	notebook
computer	crayon	banana peel	pine needles
glass bottle	celery stalks	avocado peel	television
adhesive tape	aluminum can	leaves	tree branch
lettuce	paper clip	tangerine peel	envelope

Write an item that can be compostable for each of the letters in the word "Compost".

C a r r o t s t a l k
O _____
M _____
P _____
O _____
S _____
T _____

Write the names of seven vegetables and seven fruits.

Vegetables	**Fruits**
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

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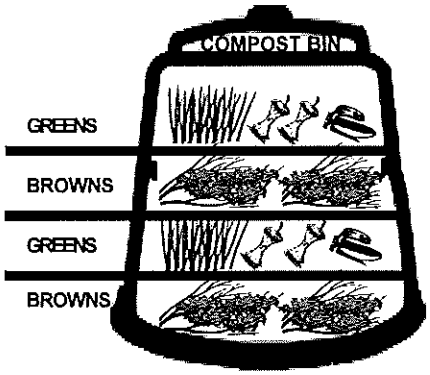
Recycling In Nature

Recycling occurs in nature every day. For example, leaves that have fallen to the ground decompose and turn into compost, a nutrient-rich soil which helps plants to grow healthily and strong. In addition, the organic material serves as food for bacteria and fungi which serves as food for earthworms which serves as food for beetles and ants, and so on. You can just imagine how this food chain continues. But when you rake leaves and grass clippings and throw then away, you not only create waste that has to be collected and processed, but you interfere with an important cycle in nature. The environmentally-friendly thing to do is to make a compost pile using yardwaste and other organic material.

It's easy to maintain a compost pile in your backyard. Start with soil and then add equal amounts of "greens" and "browns". "Greens" are sources of protein which attract organisms to the pile to breakdown the material. The "greens" also provide nitrogen to the pile. Examples of "greens" include grass clippings and food scraps. "Browns" are carbohydrates and they provide carbon to the compost pile. Examples of "browns" include dry leaves and twigs.



Once you have established an initial layer of material, place a layer of "greens", then a layer of "browns", then a layer of "greens" and continue to alternate the layers on a regular basis. This will ensure that the compost pile has an equal amount of "greens" and "browns". It's important to regularly mix the material in the pile if you want the decomposition process to take place rapidly. Then over a period of anywhere from three to twelve months the material will breakdown into compost and will be ready to be used as a natural fertilizer for plants and trees.

Directions: *In the puzzle below, find the words related to composting.*

bacteria
fungi
compost
worms
decompose
organic
nutrients
yardwaste
nitrogen
carbon

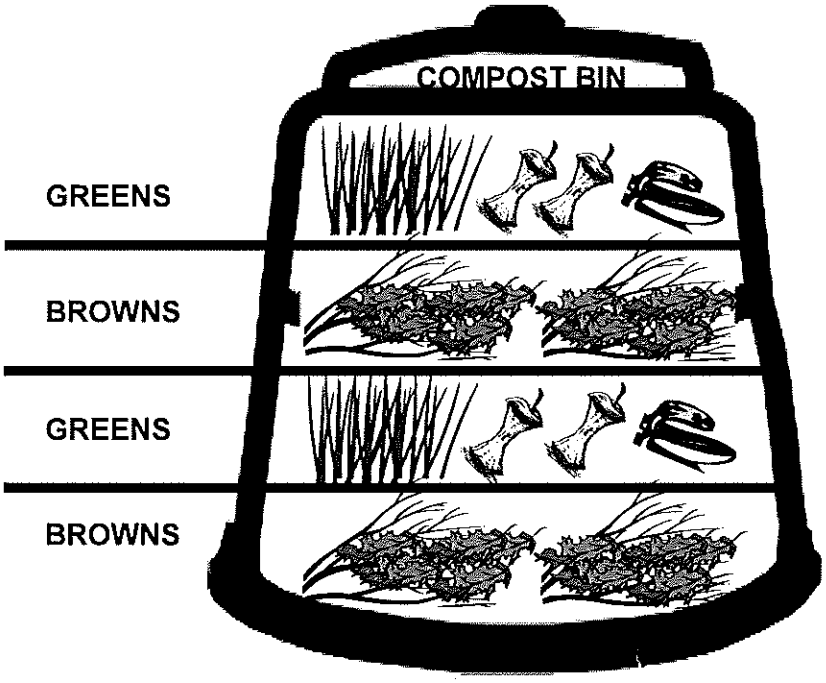
F S T N E I R T U N T
U W A B W G L E A I P
B I Y A O G M I N X O
N G A C O M P O S T W
S M R T R E O N I T Y
N F D E C O M P O S E
I U W R B W N C R A F
T N A I A O F A G W S
R G S A N R A R A D O
O I T P U M M B N R P
G A E U T S S O I A I
E C I N A G E N C C Y
N A L W I T D D E C S

Compost Pile

REFERENCE SHEET

In order to maintain a backyard compost pile remember the following tips:

- Add a layer of browns (dry leaves or twigs) then a layer of greens (fresh grass clippings, leaves and food scraps), then a layer of browns and continue to alternate the type of material you add to the pile.
- Keep the pile moist, but not soggy because the material will not decompose as rapidly if it is too wet.
- Do not add meat, bones or dairy products because these items will attract animals to the pile.
- Trim tree branches to 1/4" in diameter or smaller because they will decompose faster.
- Mix the material in the pile regularly (the more you mix the pile, the faster it will decompose) to allow aeration.



To learn more about how you can purchase your own backyard composting bin, please call 697-2700 or 930-2727 (toll-free).

SWA
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