

Making your own compost

When you put lots of organic waste in a pile, micro-organisms work to break down the waste and turn it into compost. Compost can then be added to soil to help plants grow. The nutrients in the compost help your plants to grow better. This is an example of micro-organisms being useful to us.

What is organic waste?

Organic waste is anything from your garden, like grass cuttings, dead leaves and weeds. It also includes vegetable and fruit waste from the kitchen, such as apple cores, potato peelings and carrot tops.

Why is it good to compost?

It is good to compost because, as explained above, compost is good for the plants in your garden.

It also means that you are not adding to all the large amounts of rubbish that go to ever-increasing landfills.

Have a go making your own compost.

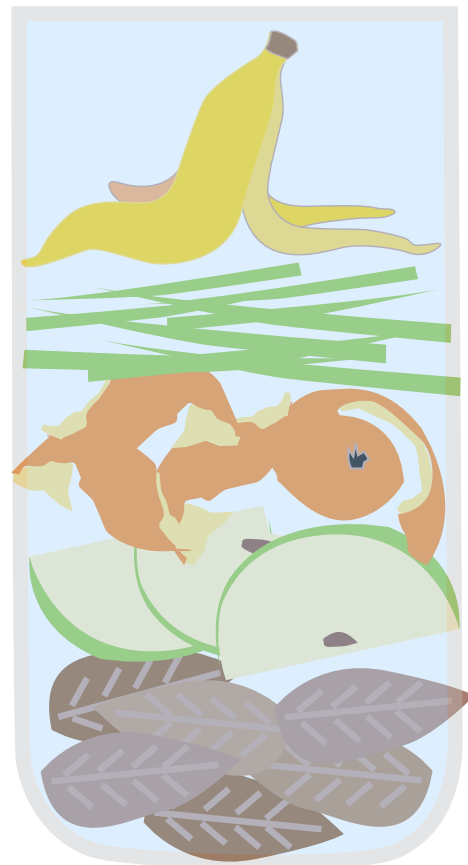
You will need:

- An empty 2-litre clear drink bottle
 - Lots of vegetable and fruit waste (uncooked)
 - Some dead leaves and / or grass cuttings
- 1) Ask an adult to cut the top of the drinks bottle off, using a Stanley knife.
 - 2) Put your vegetable and fruit waste, plus dead leaves and grass cuttings, inside. It is a good idea to layer each type of waste separately, so you can see how the different things decay.
 - 3) Watch what happens to the organic waste over several weeks.

How long did the organic waste take to start decaying (breaking down)?

Did one particular thing start to decay before the others? Why do you think this was?

Did the decay start at the bottom of the bottle and work its way to the top or was there no fixed pattern?



Year 6 Science