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Composting



Composting is a really cool way to help the Earth and make plants grow better! It's like recycling for food scraps and other natural materials. When we compost, we take things like fruit peels, vegetable scraps, and leaves and let them break down naturally. This process turns them into something called compost, which is like a special kind of soil.

So, how does composting work? Well, it's kind of like making a special recipe. First, we need to gather the ingredients. We can use things like banana peels, apple cores, carrot tops, and even coffee grounds. We can also use dry leaves, grass clippings, and small twigs. These ingredients are called organic waste because they come from living things.

Next, we need to mix all the ingredients together. We can use a special bin called a compost bin or even a pile in our backyard. We add a little bit of water to keep everything moist, like a wet sponge. It's important to turn the pile every once in a while, like mixing a cake batter, to help the composting process.

Now, here's where the magic happens! Tiny creatures called microorganisms, like bacteria and worms, start working in the pile. They break down the organic waste into smaller pieces. These tiny pieces then turn into rich, dark, and crumbly compost over time. It's like the compost is food for the microorganisms, and they turn it into something amazing for plants.

Once the compost is ready, we can use it in our gardens. We can spread it on top of the soil or mix it in with the existing soil. Compost adds nutrients to the soil, which helps plants grow strong and healthy. It also helps the soil hold water better, so plants can drink it up when they need it.

Composting is not only good for plants, but it also helps reduce waste. Instead of throwing food scraps in the trash, we can give them a new purpose. By composting, we can be Earth heroes and do our part to take care of the environment. So let's grab our compost bins, gather those organic scraps, and let the magic of composting begin!

1. Read the passage and underline any word or sentence you struggled with.
2. Answer the questions on the following page.

Answer according to the reading passage:

- 1. Things like this can be composted:**
 - a. plastic, cans
 - b. vegetable scraps and fruit peels
 - c. paper and napkins

- 2. Things like grass clippings, small weeds and small twigs which are called:**
 - a. organic waste
 - b. compost ingredients
 - c. recyclables

- 3. When composting, these two things need to be done:**
 - a. keep it in the sun and stir
 - b. add dirt and sand regularly
 - c. add water and turn everything

- 4. When the compost is ready it adds this to the soil which makes plants strong and healthy:**
 - a. bacteria
 - b. nutrients
 - c. vitamins

- 5. Compost is:**
 - a. the same as recycling
 - b. saving the environment
 - c. good for plants and reduces waste

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Open Response Questions

Open Response Questions for Thinking Skills:

1. Inferring
2. Making Connections
3. Summarizing
4. Visualizing

1. Why do you think composting is a really cool way to help the earth ?
2. What types of things do you do that are like composting?
3. In 2-3 sentences, summarize what this passage is about.
4. What did the author make you visualize as you read through this reading passage?
 - What makes this reading passage a non fiction passage?
 - What are the things you could compost?
 - Do you think everyone should be composting? Why or why not?
 - How do you think composting helps with waste?
 - Compare and contrast composting and recycling.
 - Make a list of 10 things that could be composted.