

Option A: What is compost and how do we make it? Introduction.

- Talk about what is compost, how do we make it and why, and how does nature do it.
- The class will pick out items from a ‘rubbish’ bin suitable or not for compost.
- Activity to add compostable to a clear plastic bottle.
- Watch the process over the next 6 weeks and plant a seed or plant in the matured compost and take it home.



Duration: 30 minutes

Appropriate for: Year 1 - 6

Comments: Easy, non-messy option with no outdoor requirements or long-term projects.

Requirements: Each student needs a plastic bottle, preferably clear, at least 1 litre size and cut down to about 20cm. MRC staff brings all other materials required. One extra helper besides class teacher for ‘making compost’ section.

Learning areas: Science – the nature of soil, water, what plants need to grow. Society and Environment - seeing waste as a resource, where waste goes.

Option B: What is compost and how do we make it? Making compost pile and setting up compost bins.

Talk about what compost is, how we make it and why, and how does nature do it.

Following the talk the class will make a compost pile and also compost in a bin. A closed bin can take food scraps (and is therefore suitable for canteen and lunch scrap waste) and other materials not suitable for a big ‘open’ system like the compost pile.



Duration: 60 minutes

Appropriate for: Year 1 - 6

Comments: Preparation will be needed, plus there are material and outdoor requirements, but will provide compost that can be used around the school. Children will need to be prepared to get messy!

Requirements: Wear old clothes as students will get wet and dirty. MRC can assist in acquiring materials. One helper at least besides teacher needed for making compost. The school will need to provide the following:

<i>Making a compost pile</i>	<i>Making compost in a bin</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An area to make the compost. • Materials to make compost. Contact MRC staff for suggestions. • Access to water with a hose. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A compost bin.

Learning areas: Science – the nature of soil, bacteria and other organisms essential in the soil to compost, water retention properties, what plants need to grow. Society and Environment - seeing waste as a resource, where waste goes, working together and in a team, performing set tasks, sharing set tasks. Health and Physical Education - learning to use tools safely.

Option C: What is compost? Using the compost to make a small garden.

Two visits to the school are required for this option:

Visit 1: Initial visit to learn about compost and making it (see above Option B) in preparation for making small portable gardens.



Visit 2: After about 6 weeks we look at the compost and mix it with soil from the school grounds and make small gardens in foam boxes, either in groups or as individuals. We will plant a variety of veges and/or herbs in the box, either to be kept at the school for a period or to take home and maintain.

This option shows the final use of the materials and demonstrates how the compost is useful. It is also good to have a control garden box with just school sand and compare the difference in growth, water capacity etc.

Duration: Visit 1 - 60 minutes. Visit 2 - 30 minutes.

Appropriate for: Year 1 - 6

Comments: Preparation will be needed, plus there are material and outdoor requirements, but will provide a good way to demonstrate how compost works, with something to take home at the end. Children will need to be prepared to get messy!

Requirements: Visit 1 – See Option B requirements. Visit 2 - Foam boxes and plants/seeds either for each student or for small groups.

Learning areas: Science – the nature of soil, bacteria and other organisms essential in the soil to compost, water retention properties, what plants need to grow. Society and Environment - seeing waste as a resource, where waste goes, working together and in a team, performing set tasks, sharing set tasks. Health and Physical Education - learning to use tools safely. Arts - creating art work with nature.

Option D: What is compost, making compost and setting up a school garden.

- Talk about what compost is, how we make it and why, and how does nature do it.
- Make 'instant garden beds' with sheet mulching or layering methods using 'waste' materials.



This option is a larger scale version of Option C. Students will make compost in situ in the garden bed.

Duration: 60 minutes

Appropriate for: Year 1 - 6

Comments: Preparation will be needed, plus there are material and outdoor requirements, but the school will end up with a garden made by the students. Students will need to be prepared to get messy!

Requirements: Please contact us to discuss the school requirements for this option. Need wheelbarrows, forks, spades and access to hose. Wear old clothes as students will get wet and dirty. Old fridges, with doors and motor removed (available from MRC, Tamala Park), make great raised garden beds.

Learning areas: Science – the nature of soil, bacteria and other organisms essential in the soil to compost, water retention properties, what plants need to grow. Society and Environment - seeing waste as a resource, where waste goes, working together and in a team, performing set tasks, sharing set tasks. Health and Physical Education - learning to use tools safely. Arts - creating art work with nature.



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