

Crazy Compost Workshop (Key Stage 2)

Somerset Waste Action Programme

<p><u>Please Note:</u> <i>The activities included in a Crazy Compost workshop may vary depending on your School's specific circumstances and the Waste Action Officer attending.</i> <i>We will discuss your needs and options with you when you make your booking.</i></p>	
<p>Duration: 1-1.5 Hours</p>	
<p>National Curriculum Links: Science – Sc2 Life processes and living things Geography- Knowledge and understanding of environmental change and sustainable development: 5a + 5b English- En1 Speaking and listening Citizenship: Preparing to play an active role as citizens 2 g Design and Technology</p> <p>Links to DCSF/ QCA Schemes of work: Science: 3B Helping plants grow well, 4B Habitats, 6B Micro-organisms Geography: Unit 8 Improving the environment Literacy Strands: Speaking, Listening and Responding</p>	
<p>Objectives for the lesson (these will be differentiated for different key stages):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To understand what happens to things that we throw away. • To understand why we need to recycle our waste. • To identify what organic waste is and why it important to recycle it. • To identify what compost is. • To understand the process of making compost from organic waste (e.g. role of microorganisms and mini-beasts). • To learn how to look after a compost bin e.g. what can and can't be composted, where best to site a compost bin and how to get the right mixture. • To use compost to plant seeds as part of a craft activity. • To understand what plants need to grow and how to help them grow well. 	
<p>Common Difficulties, errors and misconceptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That all refuse gets recycled. • Confusion about what can and can't be composted and reasons for this. • Confusion about how to look after a compost bin correctly. • That compost is smelly and yucky. 	
<p>Assessment Criteria: What have we learnt today? How does nature recycle? What types of rubbish can we use to make compost?</p>	
<p>Vocabulary: Reduce, re-use, recycle, landfill, compost, compost bin, organic waste, rot, mould, bacteria, mini-beasts, 'greens' and 'browns'.</p>	
<p>Resources to be provided by the school: Dependant on activity: 2 litre plastic bottles (1 per child), sticky labels, scissors, table coverings/newspaper, small watering can(s), hall/ playground/ field for compost tig.</p>	<p>Resources to be provided by SWAP: Dependant on activity - PowerPoint presentation or flashcards, cut-away compost bin, compost, seeds, glass marker-pens, virtual compost bin game, compost tig resources.</p>
<p>Strategies: Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Briefly discuss what currently happens to most of our waste and what alternative options there are (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) • Introduce compost - what it is and what it is used for. 	

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- Use cut-away compost bin or power-point slides to discuss the types of rubbish that can be put in a compost bin. Introduce the term 'organic waste'.
- Think about what properties the rubbish needs to have to be composted e.g. it must be able to rot, it must come from a plant.
- Discuss what would happen if we put lots of cooked food, meat, fish and cheese in our compost bins - what can we do with these things instead?

Development:

Virtual Compost Bin game

Each child is given a picture card with a different piece of rubbish on it. They must decide if this rubbish can or cannot be made into compost and stick it in the appropriate section of the 'virtual compost bin' ('Yes', 'No' or 'Maybe'). As a class we discuss their choices and correct any in the wrong place, giving reasons for this to build their understanding.

If time we may also discuss how to get the right mixture of waste in a compost bin and introduce the concept of 'green' and 'brown' wastes. Following this we may sort all of the 'yes' rubbish from the virtual compost bin into 'greens' and 'browns'.

Mini-greenhouses

Children use an old 2 litre plastic drinks bottle to make a mini greenhouse. They cut the bottle to form the 'greenhouse', decorate it with glass-marker pens and fill it with compost. They then plant seeds or bulbs (depending on what is appropriate for the time of year) in their greenhouse. We discuss what the seeds/bulbs need to grow, how the greenhouse works and how they will care for their plants to help them grow well.

Compost Tig (Key stage 2)

A fun way to reinforce what children have learnt about the 'ingredients' for making compost and the importance of mini-beasts in this process. This game requires a large area to play e.g. school hall, playground or playing field.

Plenary:

What have we learnt from the workshop? Why is it important to recycle organic waste?
What can/can't go in a compost bin? How do minibeasts help? How do we get the right mix?
What are greens and browns? How will you help you plants grow?

Impress the importance of washing hands following handling of the compost.