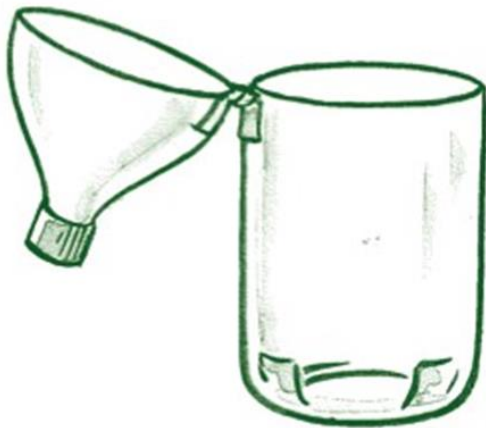


## Compost Activity 1: Make your own bottled compost

(adapted from Armstrong and Laffin 1994)



### Instructions

1. Get an empty large clear plastic soda or water bottle
2. Cut the top almost entirely off the bottle but make sure you leave it attached by a 2 cm hinge. Make sure you leave the lid on. (See diagram above).
3. Push the top part of the bottle back to allow filling of the bottle. Add 20-30 mm of soil to the base of the bottle, then add 20-30 mm of fruit and vegetables. Sprinkle over a layer of fertiliser or compost, then cover with a 5 mm layer of soil.
4. Continue to add layers of organic material, fertiliser/ compost and soil, until the bottle is full. Spray the top surface with water.
5. Pull the top over the base and secure it with tape.
6. With a felt pen, draw lines on the bottle to show the levels of the organic material and soil. Write the date on the bottle and take a 'before' photo to use for comparison later.
7. Observe the compost every day for a few weeks. Record any changes in the layers. Look for changes in colour, size and shape of the plant material. After three weeks, mark the new levels of the organic material and soil layers on the bottle using a different coloured felt pen. How much did the top mark on the bottle drop in three weeks? What do you think caused this?

8. After two months take an 'after' photo. Pour the contents of the bottle onto a sheet of newspaper. What are the contents of the bottle like?

### Activity 2 Edible compost

Make edible compost using chocolate biscuit crumbs, vanilla yogurt, and gummy worms.

Use coloured sprinkles to represent different compost creatures.

#### Example recipe

Vanilla yogurt made green with a few drops of food colouring

Chocolate biscuits, broken into pieces

Gummy worms and coloured sprinkles

In a large glass bowl, layer the 'brown' cookies and 'green' yogurt. Scatter coloured sprinkles among the layers to represent compost creatures. Top with gummy worms.

There are also more fantastic activities on the Ecosolutions 'Waste Wise' Facebook page at

<https://www.facebook.com/wastewiseschools/>

Check back weekly to see more activities.

#### Check out

<https://www.therealfarmhouse.com/diy-10-minute-compost-bin-from-pallets/>

For a cool compost bin to make at home