

Competition Compost Activity Guide

Objective

Reinforce understanding of what items can be composted and which cannot.

Materials Needed:

- A table
- Printed activity cards (pages 3-5)
- Whiteboard to keep score
- Timer or stopwatch
- 2 small containers- One labeled "Compost" and the other labeled "Not Compost"

This activity is most effective when it reinforces an educational lesson about what can and cannot be composted. The lesson 3 slideshow covers this information.

Preparation:

1. Set up a table or utilize a table that is at the front of the classroom or in an open space. Students will be approaching the table to participate in the activity.
2. Print pages 3-5. Cut out each card. Shuffle the cards randomly and place in a stack on the main table.
3. On either side of the card stack, place the two small containers with the labels noted in the materials section. **Randomly select 6 cards to set aside and out of sight of the students. These cards will be part of a speed round at the end of the game.** If no containers are available, you may also label two pieces of paper and place them on the table for the cards.

Instructions

1. Divide the class into 2 teams.
2. Explain the following rules to the class:
 - a. Each team will take turns sending one member to the table with the cards.
 - b. The student will draw a card, read it aloud, and then decide whether the item goes into the "Compost" bin or the "Not Compost" bin.
 - c. The rest of their team can help them decide, but they must make the final choice.
 - d. Give each student 15 seconds to make their decision once they draw a card. If they take too long, they must forfeit their turn and return the card to the bottom of the pile.
3. **Award 1 point for each correct decision. Deduct 1 point for incorrect decisions.** The answer key can be found on the next page. Keep this score recorded on the whiteboard as the game goes on.
4. Once the pile is gone, retrieve the 6 cards set aside from earlier and place on the center of the table. The remaining cards will be a part of a speed round. The students will be given 5 seconds to make their final decision with the card they select during the speed round.
5. Once all the cards have been sorted, tally the score and award a winner!

Answer Key

Compost

- Brown paper bag; paper can be composted, make sure it is shredded up
 - Carrots; fruit and vegetable scraps are good to compost
 - Apple core; fruit and vegetable scraps are good to compost
 - Banana peel; fruit and vegetable scraps are good to compost
 - Vegetable scraps; fruit and vegetable scraps are good to compost
 - Fruit scraps; fruit and vegetable scraps are good to compost
 - Orange peel; fruit and vegetable scraps are good to compost
 - Grape vine; fruit and vegetable scraps are good to compost
 - Bread slice; may attract rodents, so bury in the pile. Also wait until stale.
 - Torn up paper (uncoated); uncoated, shredded paper can provide carbon to the pile
 - Pistachio shells; nuts and shells can be composted but may take a while
 - Almonds; nuts and shells can be composted
 - Torn up cardboard; shredded cardboard is a good source of carbon to the pile
 - Flower; plants can be composted
 - Watermelon rind; fruit and vegetable scraps are good to compost
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Not Compost

- Cooked corn; no cooked foods
- Ground beef; no meats
- Slice of cheese; no dairy products
- Produce sticker; have a thin layer of plastic on them, not pure paper
- Styrofoam; not biodegradable
- Pizza slice; no cooked foods or dairy products
- Torn up paper (glossy); Specialized color or glossy paper may contain toxic materials from the printing inks and additives that may be harmful to humans, animals, and plant life
- Chicken enchiladas; no cooked foods, especially meat
- Plastic straw; plastic can not decompose



**Brown Paper
Bag**

Carrots

Apple Core

Banana Peel

**Vegetable
Scraps**

Fruit Scraps

Orange Peel

Grape Vine

Bread Slice

**Torn up paper
(uncoated)**

**Pistachio
Shells**

**Torn up
cardboard**

Flower

Almonds

**Watermelon
Rind**

Cooked Corn

Ground Beef

**Slice of
Cheese**

**Produce
Sticker**

Styrofoam

Pizza Slice

**Torn up paper
(glossy)**

**Chicken
Enchiladas**

Plastic Straw

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