



**SUSTAINABLE TEACHING CURRICULUM  
LESSON PLAN**

## Composting

Primary Subjects- Science

\*Note: if possible conduct during snack time and only if the school has a compost pile

Objectives:

- The students will learn how to compost and the importance of this sustainable habit.

Materials:

- Two photos: one that displays a landfill and another that displays a garden.
- Two bins: one labeled trash the other labeled compost
- A poster labeled: "what we eat for snack" (leave an adequate amount of space to list the snacks)
- \* if not conducting lesson during snack time bring an apple core, an orange rind, a banana peel, a chip bag, and two other similar snack packages

Introduction to Lesson/ Anticipatory Set:

- Ask students what they usually eat for snack and list on the poster
- set poster aside until it is needed (after a discussion of composting)

Major Instructional Sequence:

- "What is compost?"
  - a special type of plant food that helps plants grow
- "What is compost made of?"
  - certain scraps of human food that decompose or "become dirt"
  - "What types of human food?"
    - the parts that you don't want to eat of plants- like the rinds, peels, leaves etc. of fruits and vegetables
    - no meat or animal products
- "Do you guys have any examples?"
  - apple cores, banana peels, watermelon rinds, orange peels etc.
- Return to the poster
  - using input from the students take a marker and circle all of the food items listed that are compostable

- "What happens to all of the snacks that are not circled and aren't composted?"
  - "They go to a land fill"
  - show the picture of the landfill

Concluding Sequence:

- Display the photo of the landfill and the photo of the garden
  - "Where would you rather have your food go?"
    - The garden!
    - Explain how the students need to bring snacks like apples bananas etc. (that can be composted so that their snack will go to the garden)

**Background:**

This lesson plan will teach students about the benefits of composting. It will also encourage them to eat healthfully by inspiring them to consume fruit and other food that is compostable in place of snacks whose packaging goes to landfills like chips.

Vocabulary:

**Compost:** "special plant food" a mixture of organic residues such as decomposed vegetation, and manure that is used a fertilizer