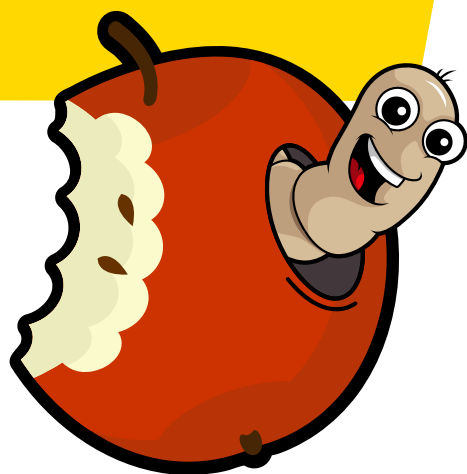


Learning outcomes

- ✓ Students learn to identify biodegradable and non-biodegradable materials
- ✓ Students gain a basic understanding of composting.



Identify Biodegradable Waste

Process

Students will:

- Investigate opportunities to minimise waste by recycling biodegradable and non-biodegradable materials.

Skills:

Students will:

- Undertake group research
- Investigate recycling processes.

Values and Attitudes:

Students will:

- Be curious
- Appreciate the value of recycling to reduce waste.

Background Information

Every day we use materials sourced from the earth – our clothing, our homes, many appliances, the food we eat and liquids we drink.

Some of these materials, such as metals and plastics, are non-biodegradable and will not decompose, although they can be recycled.

Many of the items we use or consume each day are biodegradable materials which can decay or decompose; examples include wood, food scraps, paper, and grass clippings.



Biodegradable



Non - biodegradable

Activities

In the process of this task, students will:

- Collect items from home and school that would otherwise be thrown away
- In groups, list the findings and explore samples.
- Categorise and discuss rubbish according to whether it is biodegradable and able to decay, eg. notebook paper, food scraps, and paper wrapping; or recyclable; eg. aluminium cans or plastic bottles, does not decay.
- Discuss whether more biodegradable or non-biodegradable materials are used.
- Discuss different ways biodegradable and recyclable items are recycled
- Define composting as a natural process of death, decay, and re-birth... as nature's way of recycling.
- Identify ways to make sure more products are recycled.