



## Lesson 6 – Composting Lesson Plan

<b>Delivered by:</b>	Class teacher
<b>Year groups</b>	5 and 6
<b>Session length</b>	60 mins

<b>Curriculum links:</b>
Science: Living things and their habitats
See Teacher Overview for detailed links

<b>Learning objectives covered</b>	<p>The session will introduce what is involved with composting and how it works</p> <p>By the end of the session, the children will understand:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What composting is and how it works</li><li>• The main types of composters available</li><li>• And be able to identify common waste items suitable for composting</li><li>• Understand what they can do next at home or in school to compost</li></ul>
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## Introduction film

The film for this lesson will cover the following points:

Activity	Activity brief	Teacher activity	Resources and notes
What is composting?	Looking at the way a compost pile works and the microbes found in it		Film
What's so good about composting?			Film
What can be composted?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The list of items that can and can't be composted</li><li>• Brown / green waste</li></ul>		Film
How does the compost decompose inside the pile?			Film
What are the different types of composter?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Food waste digester</li><li>• Wormery</li></ul>		Film
How long does it take to produce good compost?			Film

Activity	Activity brief	Teacher activity	Resources and notes
<b>Main part of session with range of activities dependant on time</b>			
<p>What items can be composted?</p> <p>Types of compost: is it brown / green?</p>	<p>Use the Rubbish Rebels recording booklet to identify what can be composted</p>	<p>Make note what it tells you in the film</p>	<p>Activity in Rubbish Rebels Action Pack</p> <p>PowerPoint with images to help</p>
<p>Do you compost at school / home?</p>	<p>Use the Rubbish Rebels Compost Commitment Poster to see what level you're currently at</p>	<p>Print out the Rubbish Rebels Compost Commitment Poster and put it on the wall for reference</p> <p>Send information home about composters and food waste digesters that Cumbria County Council can supply at greatly reduced rates. Also available to schools.</p>	<p>See the Teacher Overview for activity and information documents</p> <p>Website for details on Cumbria County Council food digesters and compost bins:  <a href="http://www.cumbria.gov.uk/planning-environment/waste-management/foodwaste.asp">www.cumbria.gov.uk/planning-environment/waste-management/foodwaste.asp</a></p>
<p>Compost bin visit and sample collection</p>	<p>If there is a compost bin on site, visit it and take a sample out of the base (if possible)</p>	<p>Outside activity or inside, depending on the weather. Investigate the textures and make-up of the samples and record the results.</p> <p>Take photos of the samples.</p>	<p>Enquire among staff to find out who composts. Ask for a small box of compost samples at different stages of decay.</p> <p>See the Teacher Overview for</p>

			activity and information documents
Action plan of what you are going to do next	Plan your next steps to improve composting by using the Rubbish Rebels Compost Commitment Poster	If you feel you need more help with getting the composting going, look to Garden Organic for support	PowerPoint has information about another service the school could look at and more information online
After Silver award you still feel that composting cooked food waste is not an option look at other options			<p>A company called Olleco can collect food waste in Cumbria. There are some details on the Teacher Overview and on the PowerPoint.</p> <p>You will need to save the Olleco PowerPoint for after you have done the Silver Award Garden Organics.</p>
<b>End of session summary</b>			
<p>What are the main items that can go in a compost bin?</p> <p>What are the two categories?</p>	The students can refer back to their Rubbish Rebels Action Pack		

## Homework

Activity	Activity brief	Teacher activity	Resources and notes
Food waste diary at home	Keep track of what can be composted	<p>Check if students brought home information about Cumbria County Council's compost bins and food digesters.</p> <p>Ask how many parents intend to or have ordered one. Fill this in on your award application form.</p>	Rubbish Rebels Action Pack (homework activity)
Growing old veg	Using an old yoghurt pot or cut-down milk carton, plant old veg (e.g the end of a spring onion) or seeds to grow		See activity brief in Teacher Overview

## Silver & Gold Awards

Activity name	Activity brief	Teacher activity	Resources and notes
<b>Silver award activity</b>			
Arrange for Garden Organic (or another experienced expert on compost) to come along to school and talk about composting	The students can help you get started or help you along with what you have	Contact Garden Organic. If they aren't available, please contact Judith Bradshaw at Cumbria County Council: judith.bradshaw@cumbria.gov.uk.	<a href="http://www.gardenorganic.co.uk">www.gardenorganic.co.uk</a>
<b>Gold award activity</b>			
If you don't compost on site, and now plan to, organise building a compost pile or buy one			
Set up composting boxes in required places around school and a rota for emptying them			
If composting food waste at school is not an option, then look at alternatives		Refer to the information about Olleco on the PowerPoint	