

# THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF COMPOSTING!



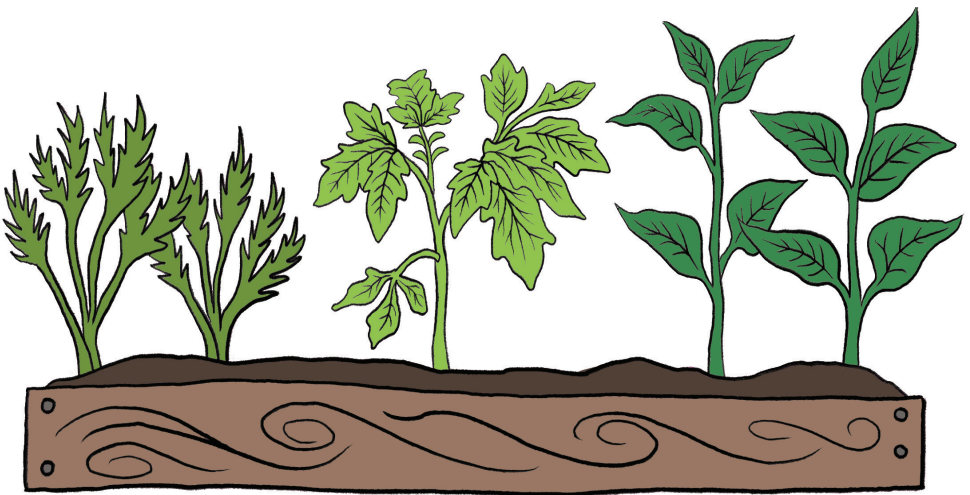
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# WHAT IS COMPOST?

Compost is organic matter that has been decomposed and recycled as a fertilizer and soil amendment.

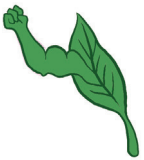
It forms as a result of the natural breakdown of organic material into fine particles by bacteria, fungi, insects, and animals that live in soil.



# WHY DO IT?



Compost returns valuable nutrients to the soil.



It improves soil structure so soil can easily hold the correct amount of moisture, nutrients, and air.



Composting reduces greenhouse gas emissions: organic material in landfills break down without oxygen and produce methane gas.



It keeps additional waste out of landfills.



It saves money! By creating your own fertilizer there's no need to buy it.



It produces natural fertilizer that won't harm the ecosystem like chemical fertilizer does.

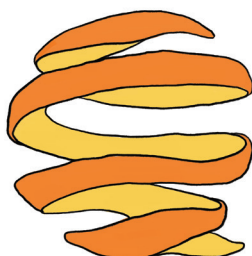
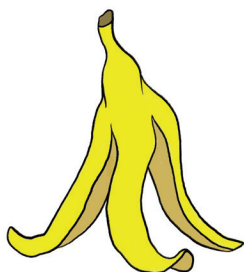


Composting also reduces water pollution caused by runoff from chemical fertilizers and pollution from toxic leachate, which is produced when organic matter in landfills reacts with metals. Toxic leachate is a source of soil and groundwater pollution.

# WHAT GOES INTO IT?

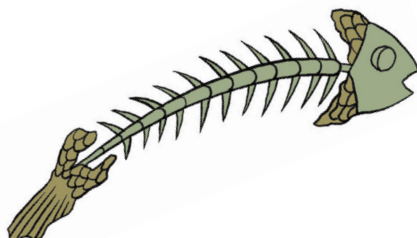
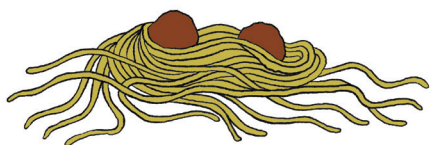
## YES!

- Yard Waste: leaves, pine needles, straw, and dead-flowers
- Fruits and Vegetables: skins, cores, any and all parts (don't forget to remove the stickers!)
- Coffee Grounds
- Eggshells
- Tea Bags (remove the string and tag)



## NO!

- Processed or Cooked Foods
- Meat, Fish, or Dairy Products
- Plastic



# HOW IS IT MAINTAINED?

Compost should be turned every 3 to 5 days and kept damp and warm. It should have even layers of wet and dry materials (leaves, twigs, etc. = dry; banana peels, apple cores, etc. = wet) to help with decomposition. With regular care it should be ready to use in about 3 months!

