

Name _____

Date _____



“Leaf” It in Your Yard (Composting) Family Page



Question: Are you willing to *leaf* it in your yard?

What’s Happening in Class?

We are getting ready to begin a research project on composting/decomposition. Your child will be working in a team with other children to collect information that will allow them to hypothesize the characteristics of a productive compost pile. Once completed, this research will allow our class to make a compost pile on the school grounds that we will maintain for the remainder of the school year.

For more specific information on this lesson, visit the *Science for Ohio* website at www.environmentaleducationohio.org and click on the “*Leaf*” *It in Your Yard* inquiry.

What Can We Do at Home?

- 1) Start collecting bags of leaves and grass clippings to be used when we build our compost pile at school.
- 2) Consider setting up a compost pile at your home. The following are reasons to consider a home compost pile:
 - You will **utilize your resident expert!**
 - You will **create nutrient rich soil** that can be used on the lawn, in a garden, or in potted plants as a fertilizer.
 - You will **save energy** while reducing pollution (fewer trucks needed to haul/process waste, fewer factories needed to produce chemical fertilizers). Fact: Yard waste represents nearly 20% of landfill waste.
 - You will **save money** by reducing waste hauling fees and by reducing the amount of money spent to buy fertilizer.

When you decide to start your compost pile, contact your child’s teacher for additional pages that offer tips for setting up and maintaining a compost pile.

- 3) Consult the following resources to learn more about composting.

Books

Squirmy Worm Composters
by Bobbie Kalman and
Janine Schaub
copyright 1992
ISBN 0-86505-555-6

World Wide Web

--www.mastercomposter.com
--www.forestpark.org/environmental
--www.earthmachine.com

Take a composting virtual tour at *Science for Ohio’s*
“*Leaf*” *It in Your Yard* Related Resources page.

