

Name _____

Date _____



“Leaf” It in Your Yard (Composting) Higher Level Thinking Assessment



Directions: Complete 30 points in choices below. The due date is _____ .

Knowledge (5 points)

--Use the following words in a sentence: *humus, decomposition, energy, matter, safety*. Each sentence needs to show your learning from our composting inquiry.

Comprehension (10 points)

--Draw and label a compost pile that can create humus in three to eight months. Include a paragraph that explains what you will do to maintain the pile.

Application (15 points)

--Create a compost pile at home using what you've learned from our research. Write a 50+ word paragraph about the experience. Bring in a picture of you and your family by your compost pile. See your teacher for pages that will help you to set up and maintain your pile.

Analysis (20 points)

--Set up an experiment to test the effect of air in composting. Set up two identical compost piles. One will be turned and watered every two weeks. The other will be watered, but not turned every two weeks. Your score will be based on the completion of a Thinksheet (see your teacher for a copy), the creation of a data sheet for recording progress, and a photo of you with your two compost piles.

Synthesis (25 points)

--Create a song, poem, or rap that illustrates the benefits of composting. A 25-point response will use the following words in a meaningful way: *humus, decomposition, energy, matter, safety, bacteria, fungi, consumers, heat, and air*. Be prepared to present your artistic creation to the class.

Evaluation (30 points)

--Should it be illegal to put yardwaste in a landfill? Before answering this question, research answers to the following questions:

- 1) How many tons of yardwaste are put in landfills in the U.S. each year? Is this a significant percentage of the total landfill waste?
- 2) Find a city or town that has a yardwaste collection program. How does it work? What are some of the problems? Do they make use of the yardwaste? If so, how?
- 3) Contact your county soil and water conservation department. Find out what they are doing to promote composting. Ask them what options there are for people who have yardwaste, but may not be able to compost due to poor health or lack of knowledge about the composting process.
- 4) Ask 10 adults the following question: "Composting is a way to turn leaves, grass, and other plant waste into rich soil. Would you keep a compost pile in your backyard if you knew how to take care of it? Why or why not?"

Turn in a final copy of your answers to these questions. Use at least one *Main Ideas with Support* prewrite sheet (see your teacher for a copy) in preparation for your paragraph response. Your paragraph should be 100 words or more and use information from the composting inquiry as well as information gained from your research.

Name _____

Date _____



Main Ideas with Support Prewrite Sheet



Directions: Complete this sheet to prepare for paragraph writing. Each main idea sentence needs an additional support sentence to give more details.

Topic Sentence _____

1st Idea _____

1st Support _____

2nd Idea _____

2nd Support _____

3rd Idea _____

3rd Support _____

Conclusion Sentence _____

If you have more than three ideas, use additional paper!