

Name _____ Date _____



“Leaf” It in Your Yard (Composting) Thinksheet



Begin with a Question: *What is needed to make a productive compost pile?*

Think It Through: List the top two or three ideas learned during your research on composting. Focus on facts that will help you to answer the question above.

Hypothesis: Draw a picture of a productive compost pile below. Use labels to make your meaning clear. Describe your compost pile on the lines below.

A large, empty rectangular box with a solid black border, intended for drawing a picture of a productive compost pile.

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(continued)



Design a Test: List the characteristics of a productive compost pile that all teams agree upon.

Do an Activity: After all of the needed materials have been collected, you will build your compost pile.

Make Some Sense of It:

- 1) Review your Thinksheet and Data Sheet(s).
- 2) Explain what you learned about composting below. Include three or more of the following words in your response: decompose, nitrogen, humus, temperature, moisture, air.

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Data Sheet
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Directions: Use this sheet to record information as you conduct your research.

Question: What is needed to make a productive compost pile?

Questions	Answers	Source
<i>General Information</i>		
What is compost?		
What makes composting happen?		
What is decomposition?		
What are six or more things that can be put in a compost pile?		
What are four or more things that cannot be put in a compost pile?		

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Directions: Use this sheet to record information as you conduct your research.

Question: What is needed to make a productive compost pile?

Questions	Answers	Source
<i>General Information</i>		
What is humus?		
How long does it take to make humus?		
<i>Building</i>		
What is a good size for a compost pile?		
What is a simple and inexpensive container for a compost pile?		
How should the material in a compost pile be assembled to help decomposition to start quickly?		
How moist should the material be that is being put into a compost pile?		

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Directions: Use this sheet to record information as you conduct your research.

Question: What is needed to make a productive compost pile?

Questions	Answers	Source
<i>Maintaining</i>		
What should be done to allow air to get into a compost pile?		
How moist should the material be kept in a compost pile?		
How can you add food waste to a compost pile without attracting unwanted insects and other animals?		
<i>Harvesting</i>		
What will the compost pile look like when it's ready to use?		
What are three or more uses for humus?		

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Directions: Use this sheet to record information as you conduct your research.

Question: What is needed to make a productive compost pile?

Questions	Answers	Source
<i>Troubleshooting</i> <i>What should you do if...</i>		
Unwanted animals start showing up at your compost pile?		
The compost pile smells bad?		
The compost pile is dry in the center?		
The compost pile is damp and warm only in the middle?		
The compost pile smells sweet, but won't heat up?		