

Compost in a Bottle Experiment Instructions

This experiment will show you how food scraps and garden waste breaks down (decomposes) and how long it takes. You will need to observe the changes in your bottle every week and record your observations.

CURRICULUM LINKS:

HS2-GEO-01, ST2-SCI-01, ST2-PQU-01, ST2-DAT-01, ST3-SCI-01, ST3-PQU-01, ST3-DAT-01

You will need:

- 2 litre clear plastic bottle with labels removed
- Soil from the compost or veggie garden bed
- Black marker pen
- Fruit & veg scraps
- Newspaper
- Spray bottle of water
- 1 tbsp of pelletised manure
- Grass clippings/leaves

Method:

1. Write your **name/s** on the bottle with a permanent marker.
2. Add 2cm of **soil** to the bottle. If the soil is dry, moisten it using the **spray bottle**.
3. Add 2cm of **fruit and vegetable scraps**.
4. Cover with 1cm of **soil**.
5. Sprinkle a spoon of the **fertiliser/manure** over the soil.
6. Add a thin layer of **grass clippings and/or leaves**.
7. Cover with 1cm of **soil**.
8. Add **torn newspaper** to the bottle.
9. Repeat steps 3–8.
10. Tape the flap closed and use a permanent marker to **add a line at the height of the compost**. Write the **date** next to the line.
11. Put your Compost in a Bottle in a **sunny spot** in the classroom.
12. Once a week for 3-4 weeks, **mark the level of the compost** and **record what is happening** in your garden journal or on the activity sheet.
13. After 3-4 weeks discuss your observations with another group and see if you can develop a **reason for those changes** happening in your Compost in a Bottle.

