

COMPOST STEW ACTIVITY – TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS S2 & S3

This is a great activity to incorporate some procedures with the Compost Stew Recipe providing a visual context for the students to learn how to compost effectively and to ascertain between Biodegradable and Non-Biodegradable materials.

CURRICULUM LINKS: HS2-GEO-01, ST2-SCI-01, ST2-PQU-01, ST3-SCI-01

You will need:

- Waste bucket full of items that often end up in landfill
- Tray or sheet to tip waste items onto
- **Biodegradable & Non-Biodegradable Activity Sheet**
- Watering can
- Pot of food scraps
- Pot of leaves/woody mulch
- Plate of compost soil
- Compost turner
- **Compost Stew Activity Sheet Stage 2 or 3**
- **Compost Stew Recipe Sheet**
- **Feed Me Please Compost Sign**
- **Compost Doctor sign**
- Spare A4 paper
- Coloured pencils
- 3 signs with a big + sign on them
- 1 sign with a big = sign on it

What to do:

1. Tip a waste bucket of material onto a tray or sheet and with the help of some student volunteers sort the waste into 2 categories – Biodegradable and Non-Biodegradable after discussing the difference between the two. Problem solve together tricky items relating back to the students understanding of different materials and Biodegradable and Non-Biodegradable. They could record them in their group on the **Biodegradable & Non-Biodegradable Activity Sheet**.
2. Discuss all of the different **Biodegradable** things that can be put into the compost remembering that **Diversity** is the key
3. Look at the **Compost Stew Recipe sheet** & the **Feed Me Please Compost sign** together as a class
4. Choose students to then be one of the 4 ingredients for the Compost Recipe and get them to hold the items and another student to hold the plate of soil. **Use the Feed Me Please Compost Sign** for your reference

5. Ask the rest of the class help place the students in the right order add in the + sign and the = sign
6. Now repeat the recipe at the Compost Bin together and students can take turns to mix the compost
7. As a review of their activity the students can complete the **Compost Stew Activity Sheet** recapping the procedure as well as noting down some of their favourite compost ingredients – maybe they are unusual ones that many hadn't realized could be composted.
8. An **extension activity** could be to make a sign for other students to follow the compost procedure.
9. After packing away tools and resources return to the tray or sheet that had the waste items tipped onto it and brainstorm what could happen to those items that were **non-biodegradable**. Could they be recycled or reused instead of going to landfill?
10. Have the Compost Recipe laminated and on display near your composting area or even examples of the students Compost Stew Activity Sheets or Compost Procedure signage as a reference for the students for when they are next composting their school food scraps.
11. Students in Stage 2 & 3 can also be introduced to the **Compost Doctor** procedure to help maintain a healthy compost – possibly nominate a group of students to be responsible for this for the term.