Learn More: Soil Is Alive!



Soil is important to the health of flora, fauna, landscapes, and people. Soil holds water, nutrients, the roots of trees and plants, and is shelter for some animals. About 95% of all the food that people eat comes from the soil.*

To help keep the soil healthy and reduce waste in landfills, people can compost. To create your own compost, you will need a place outdoors or a special compost bin. You will need to collect brown and green plant materials. Brown materials are not living, like dead leaves and straw. Green materials are living, like colorful fruit and vegetable scraps. In your compost pile, put a layer of green material and cover it with a layer of brown material. Repeat this each time you add to the compost pile. Keep the pile moist and mix it every week.



A compost bin with green and brown materials.
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Microbes in the soil eat and digest the green and brown materials, slowly turning it into compost. When the pile feels hot, it means the microbes are doing their job. In about six months, you will have healthy compost to add to the soil!**

*Source: United Nations (2022). Soils: Where Food Begins.
**Source: United States Environmental Protection Agency (2022). Composting at Home.

LIVEWORKSHEETS