

DECOMPOSITION

Read the following fact sheet.

Decomposition Time of Waste Items

People around the world are generating a lot of waste. Do you know how long waste items take to decompose when buried in the landfills? Different waste items have different time lengths to decompose.

- 🍌 tin cans: 80 to 100 years
- 🍌 nylon fabric: 30 to 40 years
- 🍌 plastic beverage containers: 100 years
- 🍌 plastic jugs: 1 million years
- 🍌 styrofoam: do not decompose
- 🍌 aluminium cans: 200 to 500 years
- 🍌 banana/orange peels: 3 to 4 weeks
- 🍌 leather shoes: 40 to 50 years
- 🍌 newspapers: 3 to 6 months
- 🍌 cigarette butts: 2 to 5 years
- 🍌 rubber soles: 50 to 80 years
- 🍌 glass jars/bottles: do not decompose



Surf the Internet to find out more about 

1. What is decomposition?

2. Newspapers decompose in

3. Based on the list above, name an item that you **should avoid** for the food packaging purpose.

4. Sequence the order of the waste items according to the decomposition time. Drag the answers into the blank boxes.

banana peels
3 to 4 weeks

plastic jugs
1 million years

nylon fabric
30 – 40 years

tin cans
80 – 100
years

aluminium
cans
200 to 500 years

plastic
containers
100 years

newspapers
3- 6 months