Name_____ 6M Date: _____

Comprehension Compare and Contrast/Science

Biodegradable vs. Non – Biodegradable

Items that we use every day are made from materials that can be classified as biodegradable or nonbiodegradable. Some of these materials such as plastics and metals are considered nonbiodegradable. These materials will not decompose or biodegrade over a short period of time and will often remain intact in the environment for many years. In contrast, biodegradable materials such as food, plant trimmings, and paper will decompose under ideal conditions over a short period of time.

Composting is a great way to turn biodegradable materials into compost, a rich soil amendment for plants. Air, moisture, and microbial activity in a compost bin are essential to the process of decomposition. When biodegradable materials end up in a landfill, they will remain there for many years because of a lack of air, moisture and microbial activity. One easy way to reduce waste is to compost biodegradable materials at home or school. Some cities are even collecting food scraps and other organic materials in curbside bins usually with plant debris or wood. These materials will get composted on a much larger municipal scale.

Biodegradable vs. Non – Biodegradable

1. Write a list of biodegradable and non- biodegradable waste materials on the lines.

BIODEGRADABLE Waste	Non-BIODEGRADABLE Waste	Similarities of Waste
1_____	1_____	1_____
2_____	2_____	
3_____	3_____	
4_____	4_____	
5_____	5_____	

2. Where are 3 places on Earth we can find bad waste materials?_____ _____ _____

3.How can humans reduce waste?

_____

4. Explain the process of decomposition in your own words.

_____

5. Which materials need to be present for something to be decomposed?

A._____

B._____

C._____

6. How can decomposing be useful to human?

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