Simple illustrated guide for kids shows how backyard composting works and how kids can reduce waste.

Help us get closer to zero waste by recycling and composting.
**Make Less WASTE**

*How You Can Help the Environment*

When waste gets into the environment it can cause pollution. Pollution can cause dirty water and dirty air. Litter on the ground is also pollution.

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**What is Waste?**

Waste is left over after something has been used. What do you put in the trash? Some waste can be reused and recycled.

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**Who Makes Waste?**

Factories and businesses make waste when they make other things. The waste is stuff they don't want and need to get rid of, like wood pallets and cardboard. Lots of this stuff can be reused or recycled.

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You make waste. Every day there are things left over from what you do.
Make Less **WASTE**

What was left over from breakfast? What could you reuse, recycle or compost?

What was left over from school? What could you reuse or recycle?

This waste can get into the environment and cause pollution. Find the things that can become waste.

```
Y M F I S W 0 J C O
T Q W R A P P E R J
I 0 0 T K L E E F A
C B E 0 A R P T J V
I R S S P A D O U G
R L T X P G A 0 Z N
T I H F I 0 E R O P
C U I D X Y 0 W V F
E 0 0 G J U T C U I
L F N W B O X Y K L
E G O C T E K F T C
H Y A P K K V 0 0 A
E L T T 0 B V V Q N
```

- **BOTTLE**
- **BOX**
- **PAPER**
- **PLASTIC**
- **CAN**
- **WATER**
- **FOOD**
- **WRAPPER**
**What Can You Do?**

Only take the food you plan to eat. Eat all your dinner, or save what you don’t eat for later in reusable containers.

Food you don’t eat is waste, but can be composted and made into soil for your garden.

Use both sides of the paper. This means you use half as much!

Use a lunch box and containers instead of plastic bags and plastic wrap.

Try not to use too much water when you take a bath.
Driving wastes gasoline.
Walk or ride your bike instead of asking your parents to drive you somewhere.
Make sure you get their permission first!

Find the words that make up the puzzle.

**Across**
1. Recycle soda_______.
2. Eat all your____________.
3. Save _______ when you take a bath.

**Down**
4. Use a re-usable _______ box.
5. Use both sides of the_______.
6. Ride your _______.

Driving wastes gasoline.
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Driving wastes gasoline.
Walk or ride your bike instead of asking your parents to drive you somewhere.
Make sure you get their permission first!
These things help out the Earth a lot. You may not always be able to see the good work you are doing but you are making a difference.

Good job!

Can you find the hidden message?

25 15 21 3 1 14 8 5 12 16 20 8 5 5 1 18 20 8

Here is the secret code.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13

N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 23 25 26
Composting is nature’s way of recycling.

Leaves, grass clippings and vegetable trimmings are materials used in composting.

Composting saves natural resources and reduces the amount of trash we throw out.
Compost is good for gardens, flower beds and lawns.

Composting leaves and other food scraps at home is very easy and useful.

Using compost makes sturdy, faster growing plants.

You can use a compost bin or make an open pile.
All bins should open easily for turning and removing compost

By shredding the materials and turning daily, compost can be made in two to three weeks during the summer

Compost made in the fall is usually not ready for use until the following summer

Composting ingredients:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHAT TO ADD</th>
<th>WHAT NOT TO ADD</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Browns (carbon)</td>
<td>• Aluminum, tin or other metal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Cotton or wool rags</td>
<td>• Glass</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Dryer and vacuum cleaner lint</td>
<td>• Dairy products (for example, butter, milk, sour cream, yogurt) and eggs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Eggshells</td>
<td>• Fats, grease, lard or oils</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Nut shells</td>
<td>• Greasy or oily foods</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Fireplace ashes (from wood burning)</td>
<td>• Meat or seafood scraps</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Sawdust</td>
<td>• Pet wastes (for example, dog or cat feces, soiled cat litter)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Hay and straw</td>
<td>• Soiled diapers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Yard trimmings (for example, leaves, branches, twigs)</td>
<td>• Plastic</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Houseplants</td>
<td>• Stickers from fruits or vegetables (to prevent litter)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Used potting soil</td>
<td>• Black walnut tree leaves or twigs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Wood chips</td>
<td>• Yard trimmings treated with chemical pesticides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Shredded newspaper</td>
<td>• Roots of perennial weeds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Cardboard rolls</td>
<td>• Coal or charcoal ash</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Clean paper</td>
<td>• Firestarter logs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• Treated or painted wood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Greens (nitrogen)</td>
<td>• Uncooked or cooked fruits and vegetables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Bread and grains</td>
<td>• Eggshells</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Coffee grounds and filters</td>
<td>• Nut shells</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Grass clippings</td>
<td>• Hair and fur</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Paper tea bags</td>
<td>• Chicken, rabbit, cow, horse manure</td>
</tr>
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Compost Pile

The ideal size for a composting bin is one cubic yard (3’x3’x3’). Multiple bins or piles are recommended for different stages of the process.

The bin should be in a well-drained area out of direct sunlight.

To find out what composting options are available in your area, contact your local solid waste management district, health department or Ohio EPA office.

epa.ohio.gov/dmwm/Home/Composting.aspx
Compost Scramble

Directions:

1. Unscramble the words in the compost pile.
2. Write the correct word under the scrambled word.
3. Write your name on the pitchfork handle.
4. In the pile below, circle the unscrambled word that doesn’t belong in a compost pile.

worms
vegetables
pine needles
old fruit

nuts
bark
coffee grounds
bacteria
twigs
fish
glass

Students Handout

Directions:
Unscramble the words in the compost pile.
Write the correct word under the scrambled word.
Write your name on the pitchfork handle.
In the pile below, circle the unscrambled words that don’t belong in a compost pile.

In the following list, put a square around the decomposers and put brackets around the sources of food energy.

5 4 3 2 1
dung
air
heat
worms
leaves
grass
vegetables
fungus
pine needles
weeds
old fruit
nuts
bark
coffee grounds
bacteria
twigs
fish
glass
sow bug

DOL URTIF
SROWM worms
AKRB bark
IWTSG twigs
ECFOFE DSUGORN coffee grounds
BLEVESTAGE vegetables
ARABTCEI bacteria
SNTU nuts
NEIP DEEESLN pine needles
LSASG glass

YOU CAN HELP THE EARTH!