

# Creating a Classroom Compost



## Lesson Overview:

In this lesson, students will work together to create their very own classroom compost. This is an extension activity of the lesson “*What is Composting?*” (Unit 2, Lesson 4).

## Learning Outcomes:

Students will:

- Work cooperatively to create a classroom compost

## Materials:

- plastic tub with lid, holes drilled in the sides and bottom
- extra lid for tub to be placed underneath (to catch liquids)
- playground sand
- topsoil
- dead leaves
- red wiggler worms
- food scraps
- newspaper
- spray bottle with water
- garden hand fork

*Additional information on composting:*

<https://greenactioncentre.ca/module/composting-2/vermicomposting/>

## Instructions

### Learning Plan:

Complete the following steps to create your own classroom compost:

1. Provide newspaper for students to shred lengthwise, about 3cm wide. Place the shredded newspaper in the bottom of the bin.
2. Add the food scraps and leaves. Cover these scraps with the topsoil and worms.
3. Moisten the contents of the bin with the water bottle until it is damp.
4. Add more newspaper and dampen with the water bottle. **Do not over water the compost, it should be just damp.**

*Instructor tips/suggestions:*

- Consult with School Administration and Custodians before creating classroom compost
- Do not “overfeed” the bin
- Have sufficient layers of newspaper on top to avoid fruit flies
- Make posters with a list of items that can/cannot go into the bin
- Cut/break up food scraps so that they will decompose faster
- For older students, discuss the difference between and functions of carbon-rich (brown material) and nitrogen-rich (green material) in compost