



AT HOME CLASSROOM RESOURCES

EARLY YEARS

From Farm to Fork: Plant a Garbage Garden

GRADE 2 - 3

LESSON DESCRIPTION

Garbage as we have treated it in the past is becoming a problem in Canada and in many other parts of the world. Some materials decay easily when placed back in the earth - those materials are called biodegradable. Other materials remain the same indefinitely. You can demonstrate this phenomenon with students by having them plant a garbage garden.

SUGGESTED CURRICULUM LINKS

Science: Soils in the Environment - 3-4-10, 3-4-11

Social Studies: Skills - 2-, 3-S-103

OTHER RESOURCES

[Take Pride Winnipeg's Team Up to Clean Up](#)

[Simple Indoor Composter design](#)

[Green Action Centre Composting resources](#)

LESSON

Materials

- 1 cardboard egg carton
- Tray (eg cookie sheet or plastic bin lid)
- Soil to fill each compartment (soil must come from outdoors)
- Tiny pieces of: toilet paper, cotton, newspaper, vegetables, wood, aluminum foil, plastic wrap, plastic from a container, cardboard, notebook paper, magazine and candy wrapper.

Directions

1. Have the student fill each compartment in the egg carton with outdoor soil.
2. Next, have the student place a tiny piece of a different item in each egg carton compartment.
3. Then have the student cover each compartment with more soil.
4. Water the garbage garden frequently and place it on the drip tray by a sunny window.
5. Have the students check each compartment at the end of the week (and once every week thereafter for as long as desired) to see what happens to each item.
6. Once their observations are complete, discuss the changes that occurred (or didn't occur).
7. Ask students to share how litter can impact the soil and which materials break down - organic materials, and which do not.
8. How does litter impact plants and animals in the environment? How can we reduce, recycle and reuse materials to limit the amount of garbage in the environment?