

## Composting - KS1

### *Rotting rubbish*

Do you know what compost is?

**Compost** is a type of 'fertilizer', that looks like soil, that is made from rotting plants from the garden or kitchen.



The vegetable waste is broken down by bacteria (germs), and made into compost.

There are different types of composters. They are special containers where you pile in the food waste and let them break down into compost.

You can get wooden or plastic ones. Food waste goes in the top and compost is taken from the bottom once it is ready.



You can also get 'wormeries' where the worms help break down the food into compost quicker.

# Reduce, reuse, recycle

This is the Education Team setting up a new wormery in our WRWA Schools reuse garden. We usually put left overs from school visit packed lunches in it. If you have been to our site do you remember the worms?



*We started it off with some soil.*



*We were sent some worms in the post. Don't worry they were specially wrapped!*



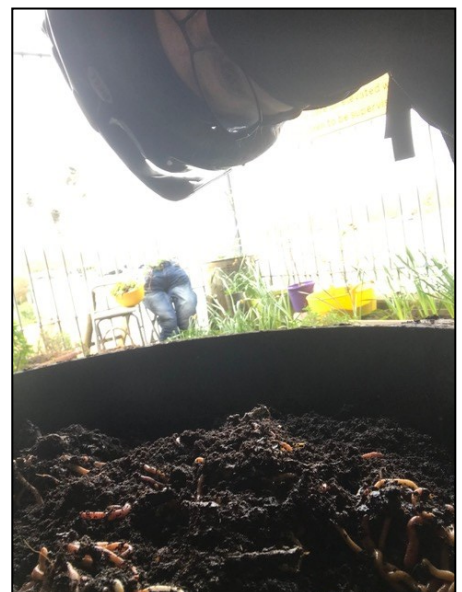
*We spread them around.*



*Worms don't like light so they eventually all went under the*



*We put the lid on to allow them to get to work and we added food to it a few weeks*



*I was allowed to go back once to the site so I made sure they were ok and have enough waste food.*

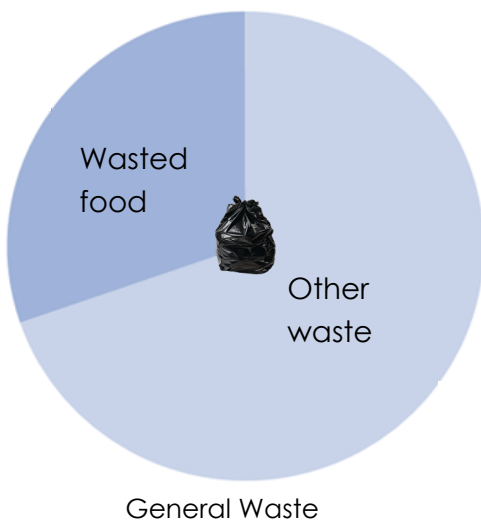
# Reduce, reuse, recycle

## Why compost?

If you don't compost, your food waste goes in the Rubbish bin. It is sent to a special place to be burnt (Energy From Waste Plant).

It is a waste of electricity, water, diesel ('resources') from growing and transporting it for good food to end up in the bin.

It costs a lot of money to collect and get rid of.



Some food waste such as bones, egg shells, carrot ends can't be helped but a lot of good food that *could* have been eaten gets thrown away.

**Can you think of 2 reasons why good food gets thrown away?**

.....

.....



If you live in Lambeth you might have these bins . This small grey one is for in your kitchen.

And this bigger, brown food waste bin to put outside for the bin collectors.



If you compost at home you can save yourself money by not having to buy as much compost for your garden.



# Reduce, reuse, recycle

If food can't rot properly it gives off bad gases which contribute to climate change.

*Do you know or can you find out what climate change is and why it is not good for the planet?*

Not throwing as much good food away is called **reducing food waste**.

## What can you put in the home compost?



Fruit and vegetable peelings/waste



Egg shells



Teabags/coffee grounds/filters



Twigs & leaves/flower and grass cuttings



Shredded paper/cardboard

# Reduce, reuse, recycle

## How does food waste get turned into compost ?

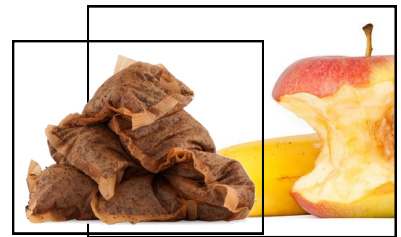
Compost, like all living things needs:



1. **Food:** eg fruit and vegetable peelings, coffee grounds, egg shells, cardboard etc.



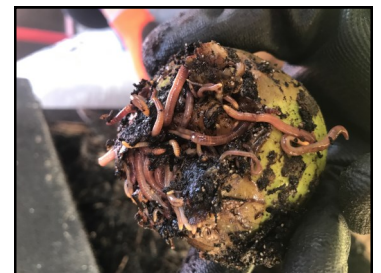
2. **Water:** most of the water comes from foods like apple cores, banana skins and tea bags.



3. **Air:** things like twigs and cardboard (especially egg boxes and loo rolls ) provide lots of air spaces!



4. **Warmth:** compost needs some warmth from the sun. This is why composting happens faster in the warmer summer than in the cooler winter.



Compost micro-organisms and mini-beasts eat the materials in the compost bin and help recycle it into compost.

Tick which mini-beasts you have seen.



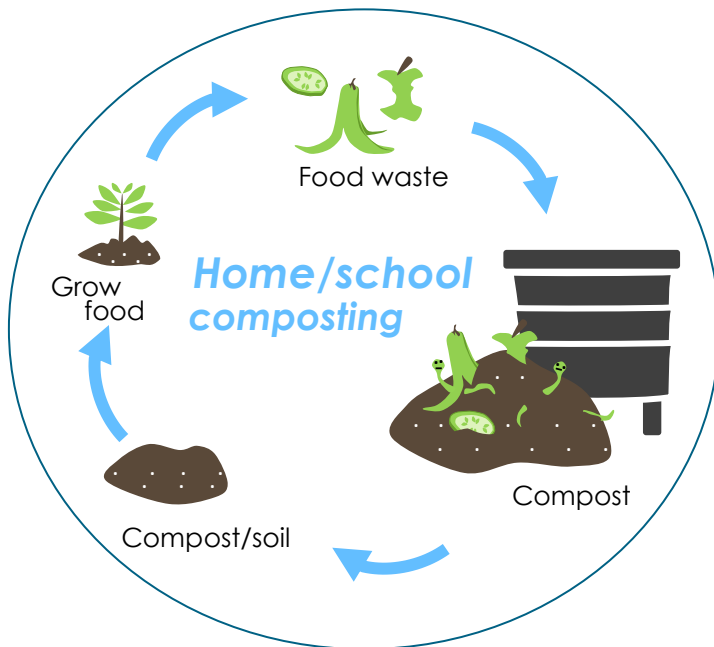
Slug

Worm

Woodlice

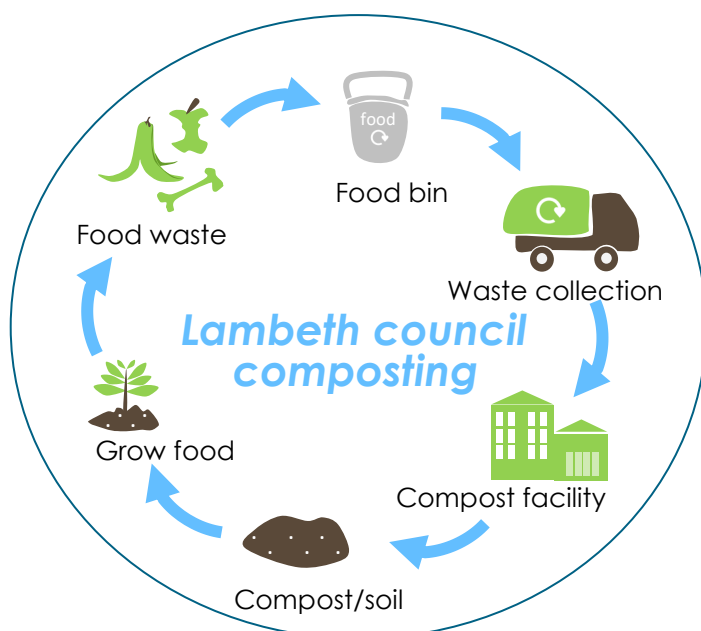
Centipede

## Compost = the circle of life



A composter might take about 6 months to make compost—it is quicker in the summer—why do you think this might be?

Do you know if your school has a composter? When you go back **why not find out if it has one and where it is and who in the school uses it.**



There is some food waste such as bones and meat that you can put in a council food waste bin but not in your home composter in the garden as they attract rats and flies!

# Reduce, reuse, recycle



Here is a vegetable that has started to grow in my compost.

**Can you guess what it is?** It doesn't look like the ones you buy in the supermarket!

**Why not find some things from your recycling bin to grow some seeds in?**

You can always try and buy a small bag of compost if you don't have a composter.



**What can you find from your recycling bin to grow plants in?**

The good thing about cardboard is you can plant it straight into the ground when the plants are ready as the cardboard will rot.



**Can you see what these containers are made from?**

These pots can't be planted into the ground like the cardboard ones above, as they don't rot, so should only be used as plant pots.

# Reduce, reuse, recycle

Answer for page 7:



Name the vegetable growing in the compost? — it's a cauliflower!

Further reading/info:

<http://www.ecofriendlykids.co.uk/composting.html>

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/gardening/gardening\\_with\\_children/didyouknow\\_compost.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/gardening/gardening_with_children/didyouknow_compost.shtml)

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/gardening/gardening\\_with\\_children/homegrownprojects\\_compost.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/gardening/gardening_with_children/homegrownprojects_compost.shtml)



If you have space persuade your adult to make or buy a composter and save money and the planet by recycling your food waste. You can get compost bins/wormeries that have a special offer here:

<https://getcomposting.com/>



# Reduce, reuse, recycle

If you have a printer you can print off and colour this in.  
If you don't have a printer why not draw some worms and things you can compost instead?

