

Wigglebert worm and Friends (Key Stage 1)



Season: All	Duration: 1-1.5 hours																					
Overview: We discover how to make and use compost with the help of Wigglebert the worm and his wiggly friends! During this workshop your class will find out: What types of rubbish can be made into compost, which creatures help us to make compost and how to use compost to help plants grow. They will also have the opportunity to investigate real composting worms in our mini wormery and plant seeds to make their own compost character to look after.																						
Learning Objectives: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To identify what compost looks, feels and smells like. To identify what we use compost for. To understand which types of rubbish can be made into compost and which types of rubbish should not be put in a garden compost bin or heap. To identify which mini-beasts help us make compost and how they do this. To use compost to plant seeds, identifying what seeds need to grow and how we can help them grow well. 		Key Vocabulary: <table border="0"> <tr> <td>Compost</td> <td>Tiger worm</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Compost bin</td> <td>Wormery</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Compost heap</td> <td>Slug</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rubbish</td> <td>snail</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Rot</td> <td>Beetle</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mini-beasts</td> <td>Woodlouse</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bacteria</td> <td>Millipede</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mould</td> <td>Earwig</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Worm</td> <td>Seed</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Plant</td> <td>Seedling</td> </tr> </table>	Compost	Tiger worm	Compost bin	Wormery	Compost heap	Slug	Rubbish	snail	Rot	Beetle	Mini-beasts	Woodlouse	Bacteria	Millipede	Mould	Earwig	Worm	Seed	Plant	Seedling
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National Curriculum Links: Science: Year 1: Animals, including humans; Plants; Everyday materials. Year 2: Animals, including humans; Plants; Uses of everyday materials. Design and Technology: Make.																						
Resources to be provided by school: Interactive whiteboard or projector and screen; Access to school composting area if available; scissors, pencils and glue/ sellotape.																						
Materials that Children should bring from home: 1 yoghurt pot per child ('ski' / 'shape' style work best)																						
Outline of Activities with approximate timings: Please note: We can tailor activities to suit the abilities of your class and time available. Nature's Way of Recycling! (20-30minutes) Use props and large images to demonstrate and discuss: What is compost? What do we use it for? What do we need to make our own compost in the garden? Which animals help us make compost and how do they do this? Introduce Wigglebert Worm (puppet) to the class. He is a special type of worm called a tiger worm and is the sort of worm that lives in compost bins and heaps. Wigglebert then helps the class sort through different items of rubbish, identifying which he would like to eat (and will make into compost), and which he will not eat (and should be kept out of the compost bin/ heap). We then discuss reasons for this. Investigating Composting Minibeasts (15 minutes) Using special bug-viewers children get up close to some of Wigglebert's friends from our portable wormery: We look carefully at the worms' body shape, body features, and movement and thinking about how tiger worms are suited to life in a compost bin or heap. If time allows we may also investigate other minibeasts from the school compost bin or heap.																						

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Outline of Activities with approximate timings (continued):

Making Compost Characters (20 minutes)

Children re-use a yogurt pot to make a fun cress-head to take home. Children decorate their pot with a face, fill it with compost and plant cress seed. During this activity children have the opportunity to touch, feel and smell compost and think about what seeds need to grow, how to care for seedlings and what plants get from compost.

Plenary:

Gather children for circle/carpet time. Use questions to re-cap learning: Can you tell me one thing that we can put in a compost bin? Which minibeasts help make compost? How do they help? How did we use our compost today? When we make compost it is a type of Re___?

Extra activities (time allowing):

Compost sorter game

Each child is given a picture of a different type of rubbish. They must decide if this rubbish is compostable and put it in the correct place on the compost sorter board. Once everyone has done this we discuss their choices as a class, making any corrections needed and giving reasons for these to build understanding.

Smelly Pots

Using their sense of smell children have to identify the contents of covered pots containing a variety of food waste and decide if it should be put in the compost bin. Finish by passing round a pot filled with compost to highlight that compost isn't smelly or yucky if made correctly.

Compost Stew story

Read 'Compost Stew: An A to Z recipe for the Earth' by Mary McKenna Siddals and Ashley Wolf

Eco– Schools Links:

Curriculum-linked activities and practical action on waste and recycling, or developing school grounds could be used as evidence towards an Eco Schools Award. For more information visit: <http://www.keepbritaintidy.org/ecoschools/>

Suggested follow-up activities:

Set up a composting scheme at school– a great way to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill and nourish your school garden at the same time. WRAP's school composting leaflet has some top tips:

http://www.wrap.org.uk/downloads/compost_leaflets_eng_final_7.5879ebec.7700.pdf

General home composting information on the recycle now website:

http://www.recyclenow.com/home_composting/

Cut-price compost bins, wormeries and accessories:

<http://www.somerset.getcomposting.com/>

Make a mini wormery from a plastic bottle– download instructions [here](#).

A variety of worm-themed activities can be found on the Bug Life website:

<http://www.buglife.org.uk/discoverbugs/wormweek/WormActivities>