

Name _____

Date _____

All about Composting—Third Grade Earth Science (S3E1J)

<http://aggie-horticulture.tamu.edu/sustainable/slidesets/kidscompost/cover.html>



1. Name the four things needed in the recipe for good compost:

_____, _____,
_____, and _____.

2. Brown stuff is _____.

3. Brown stuff is high in the element _____.

4. Green stuff is _____.

5. Green stuff is high in the element _____.

6. Don't use these 8 things in your compost: _____,
_____, _____, _____,
_____, _____, and _____.

Building Your Compost Pile—It's all about the Layers

The first layer of your compost pile should be made of about 6 inches of "brown stuff".

7. Four good sources carbon sources (brown stuff) include _____,
_____, _____, and _____.

The second layer of your compost pile should be a few inches of "green stuff".

(Mix the layers up a little as you add them.)

8. Four good sources of nitrogen (green stuff) include _____,
_____, _____, and _____.

The third layer of the compost pile should be a shovelful of soil or compost.

9. This layer will add _____ to the compost pile.

10. As you add layers you need to give each one a good sprinkling of _____.

Repeat the layers until your compost bin is full!

11. Tiny microorganisms begin the work of breaking down all of the organic matter in your compost pile. Later you may see larger organisms such as _____,
_____, _____, and others.

12. Plants love compost so you can use it as mulch around garden plants. Mulch helps plants in two ways. It _____, and it _____.

_____. When it rains nutrients from the compost are also washed out and go into the soil to feed the roots of plants.

Remember: If you don't have a compost bin, you can still compost at your house by using a trench or you can even make compost "pockets" by placing food scraps in an 18" deep hole that you cover with dirt. In a month or so these "pockets" become great places to plant flowers in your yard.