



# Composting: Waste to Resources



## IN A NUTSHELL

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**Cost:** \$8.50 + s&h

## SUBJECTS

Fine Arts  
Science

This package includes a thirty-eight page teacher's guide, a series of cards describing different composting systems, a progress tracking sheet, and two posters which illustrate the composting process and provide suggestions on making composting more successful. The materials explain: how composting works, how to design and set up different composting systems (e.g., mounds vs turning units), reasons for composting, and ways to investigate and solve problems with existing compost piles. The guide includes several investigations in which students measure their pile's temperature, draw pictures of microscopic and visible creature which inhabit their piles, measure the rate at which different items decompose and under what conditions, and experiment with using their compost to help grow plants. The guide includes a glossary and lists additional sources of information about composting. Illustrations include diagrams and black-and-white drawings.

**Grade Level**  
4-8

**Length**  
38+ pages

**Date Published**  
1994

THE BOTTOM  
LINE

"Provides great facts and accurate directions for building bins."

What the REVIEWERS Said !	Key Characteristics	Strengths Noted	Other Considerations
	Fairness and Accuracy	Very open to inquiry.	Some supportive data may be outdated. Does not present a balanced explanation of different viewpoints.
	Depth	Focuses on concepts.	Gives little attention to different geographic scales.
	Emphasis on Skills Building	Many activities involve teamwork. Facilitates critical thinking. Strong on action skills.	Does little to connect skills to issues. Focus is on final product.
	Action Orientation	Not Applicable.	
	Instructional Soundness	Encourages teaching inside and outside the classroom. Many activities are learner-centered and encourage student involvement.	Lessons are not particularly interdisciplinary. Does relatively little to connect composting to learners' everyday lives.
	Usability	Activities are clear, logical and easy to follow. Materials are easily reproducible.	

"Discusses the issue of waste reduction, but there could be more of an emphasis so that students feel a personal responsibility."

"Would do well in an activity center or special project area."