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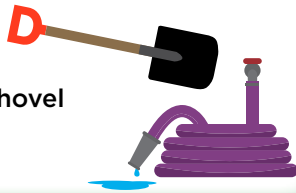
# Make a Compost Pile

After reading “Fighting Food Waste,” study the informational text below to learn how to turn food waste into compost. Ask an adult to help you make a compost pile. Before you dig in, read the instructions below and answer the questions.



## Materials

- “Brown material” like fallen leaves, nut shells, small twigs, shredded newspaper
- “Green material” like grass clippings and food scraps (such as vegetable peelings, eggshells, old bread, or fruit rinds—but NOT meat, oils, or dairy products)
- garden soil
- a garden fork or shovel
- a garden hose or watering can



## Steps

1. Find a dry, shady area about 3 feet long.
2. Spread brown material in a layer that’s about 6 inches thick.
3. Add a 2-inch-thick layer of green material.
4. Add a 1-inch-thick layer of soil. This layer will help absorb the odor.
5. Add some water. The pile should be moist but not soggy. You may want to cover your pile with a tarp to protect it from rain.
6. Repeat steps 2-5 until the compost pile is about 3 feet high.
7. Every few weeks, mix the compost. This allows air to enter the pile. You may notice your compost steaming. It’s normal for an active pile to heat up. It can get as hot as 170°F!
8. In several months, your compost will become cool, crumbly, and dark. Some composters call this “black gold.” Add this finished product to garden soil. It’s full of nutrients that will help keep your plants healthy.

1. Circle the items you can include in a compost pile:

- |           |               |             |
|-----------|---------------|-------------|
| chicken   | dead leaves   | yogurt      |
| eggshells | vegetable oil | onion peels |

2. Sketch a diagram that shows the layers of a compost pile. Label each layer.



3. What is the purpose of adding a layer of soil to your compost pile?

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4. How can you prevent your compost pile from getting soggy?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Why is it beneficial to make a compost pile? Refer to the article for additional support.

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