

## Class Activity: Can it be Composted

### Topics

1. Composting
2. Different composting systems

### Teacher's Guide

#### **Activity overview:**

This activity is intended to introduce students to the principles of composting by familiarizing them with materials that can and cannot be composted. Through engagement with the activity game, students will develop an understanding of various composting systems and the rationale for excluding specific food items from the composting process.

#### **Activity Instructions:**

1. **Set up**
  - a. To begin this activity, it is recommended to use a tri-fold poster labeled “Yes” and “No” on either side to clearly distinguish between items that can and cannot be composted.
  - b. Depending on the number of participants, each student may take turns determining whether the image on a given card represents a compostable or non-compostable item.
2. **Reviewing answers**
  - a. Once all of the cards have been placed on the tri-fold, a third category “It Depends” will be introduced. This category serves to provide a brief introduction to different composting methods and to acknowledge that some materials may or may not be suitable depending on the system used.
    - i. For example, meat is typically excluded from regular composting because it attracts unwanted pests such as rodents and maggots. However, in a small-scale system like

Bokashi composting, items such as meat or bread can be effectively processed.

**Guiding Questions for to start the activity:**

1. What can it composted?
2. What makes certain foods compostable vs others?
3. Why would you avoid meat in a outdoor compost pile?

**Materials activity**

**Materials to create on tri-fold.**

- Scissors
- Velcro strips
- Tri-fold

**Materials for printing**

**Printing list**

1. Can it be a composted game activity [here](#).

What the activity may look like

YES	CAN IT BE COMPOSTED	NO
 <p>Applecore</p>  <p>Banana peel</p>  <p>Grass clipping</p>  <p>Manure</p>  <p>Lettuce</p>  <p>Eggs shells</p>  <p>Coffee grounds</p>  <p>Pine needles</p>  <p>Mulch</p>  <p>Tree clippings</p>  <p>Crop residues</p>  <p>Flowers</p>  <p>Tree branch</p>  <p>Nutshells</p>  <p>Newspaper</p>	<p>IT DEPENDS</p>  <p>Laundry lint</p>  <p>Tea bags</p>  <p>Pumpkin</p>  <p>Hair snippings</p>  <p>Meat</p>  <p>Dairy</p>  <p>Bread</p>	 <p>Glossy paper</p>  <p>Bones</p>  <p>Candy wrapper</p>  <p>Fruit sticker</p>  <p>Plastic water bottle</p>  <p>Cans</p>  <p>Cooking oil</p>