

Waikato

ENVIROSCHOOLS



Councils are no longer collecting plastics/ paper or metal recycling during this lockdown time ...

What can we do to **Reduce** the amount of waste we are creating, **Re-use** or upcycle things that would normally go in the recycling bin and deal with the items we would normally **Recycle** ?

This is the first activity in an inquiry into 'Zero Waste at your Place' with the aim to:

- Create a 'Compost Heap of Knowledge' to gather facts, feelings and ideas around 'Waste at your Place'
- Create, manage and monitor ways you can move towards becoming a 'Zero Waste' Household.

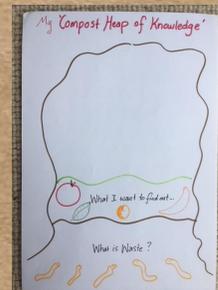
What is Waste ? Creating your Compost Heap of Knowledge

You will need:

- Coloured Pens
- Large piece of paper or card (flattened and re-used cardboard box)
- Gloves and tarp or old newspaper

What to Do:

1. Draw the shape of a Compost Heap or Bin with 2 layers, leaving space for more...
2. Empty your kitchen rubbish bin onto a tarp or newspaper and record your thoughts, feelings and answers to some of these questions on the bottom layer of your heap, under 'What is Waste ?' If you want to you could record these in worm shapes.
 - What do you know about waste ?
 - What are some other names for waste ?
 - What are all the types of waste you can think of ?
 - What types of things are put in your kitchen rubbish bin as waste ?
 - Where will that waste go ?
 - What is a landfill and what harm might it cause to our environment ?
 - What other places could some of the waste go ?



Reflection: Record this in the second layer of your heap (could be recorded on leaf or fruit shapes)

What questions do you have about waste ?

What actions could you take **now** to stop some of this waste going to landfill ?

Consider how you might find out the answers to these ..Some of the up-coming activities might help.

Gloves put the waste back in the bin for now.



Waikato

ENVIROSCHOOLS



Bury it and Dig it up

Decomposition is the breakdown of natural materials by the action of insects, worms, fungi and bacteria. It is a natural biological process which replenishes Papatūānuku. By observing changes over time, you will discover which things are biodegradable (or organic) and which aren't (inorganic). This will help you think about the effects of different types of waste on our environment.

You will need

- A small area in your backyard for burying waste
- The 'Bury it' record sheet or notebook.



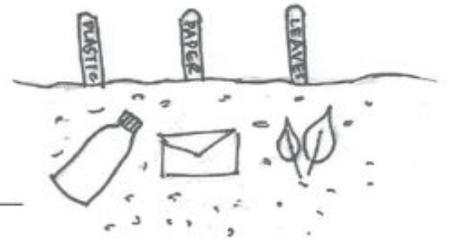
What to do:

1. Collect 4 or 5 different types of waste: tin can, plastic, paper, food, packaging,
2. For each piece of waste, record observations with words/drawing or photos
3. Bury the waste in soil outside, close to where you can monitor changes.
4. Use something weather-proof to mark where each piece of waste is buried.
5. Use the record sheet or draw up a chart to record the name of each piece of waste and your predictions about how long it will take to break down ?
6. Over four weeks, water the soil to keep the area damp.
7. Dig up your waste each week and record the results with words and/or pictures - *Look for changes in shape, colour, texture, weight and smell. - What organisms are helping to decompose the waste ? A magnifying glass is great to use here.*
8. Cover up your pieces again when you've finished.
9. As you go, and, at the end of 4 weeks ... Record your findings and your thoughts on to another layer of your 'Compost Heap of Knowledge'.

Reflection

- *What did you find out ?*
- *What do you think is needed to help break down waste ?*
- *Find out how long will it take for some of the waste items to break down ?*
- *What would happen to the un-biodegradable waste if it reached the ocean ?*

Bury it record sheet



My piece of waste is: _____

It weighed: _____

I think that in four weeks time it will _____

Use this table to keep a close eye on any changes with your piece of waste as you dig it up over the next four weeks. Draw or write about the changes you notice.

	I noticed...	This tells me that...	Drawing
Week One			
Week Two			
Week Three			
Week Four			