Name: _____ Date: _____

Scraps Make Rich Soil

Circle group

Do not toss all food scraps. Some go in a compost pile. Apple cores and banana peels can go in. Old leaves can too.

Bugs, worms, and fungi live in the pile. They eat the scraps. The scraps break down. They turn into dark soil.

This soil is rich. A gardener puts it by plants. The plants grow big and strong.

Questions

1. What can go in a compost pile?

_____

_____

2. What lives in the pile?

_____

_____

3. What do the scraps turn into?

_____

_____

4. Who spreads the soil around plants?

_____

_____

5. How does compost help plants?

_____

_____

Words to know

compost: old food and leaves that turn into soil
scrap: a small bit of leftover food
gardener: a person who grows plants

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Scraps Make Rich Soil

Triangle group

Do not throw away every food scrap. Some can go in a compost pile. Apple cores, banana peels, and old leaves are good for compost.

Tiny bugs, worms, and fungi live in the pile. They eat the scraps. Over time, the scraps break down. They turn into dark, crumbly soil.

This soil is rich. A gardener spreads it around plants. The plants use it to grow big and strong. Scraps that were trash have a new job. That is good for the garden, and it is good for the Earth too. Try it at home!

Questions

1. What can go in a compost pile?

_____

_____

2. What lives in the pile?

_____

_____

3. What do the scraps turn into?

_____

_____

4. Who spreads the soil around plants?

_____

_____

5. How does compost help a garden?

_____

_____

Words to know

compost: old food and leaves that turn into soil
scrap: a small bit of leftover food
crumbly: easy to break into small bits

gardener: a person who grows plants

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Scraps Make Rich Soil

Square group

Not every food scrap has to be thrown away in the trash. Some of them can go into a compost pile instead. Apple cores, banana peels, and old leaves all make good compost.

Tiny bugs, worms, and fungi live inside the pile, and they eat the scraps. As time goes by, the scraps break down and turn into dark, crumbly soil.

This soil is rich with things that plants need. A gardener spreads it around the plants, and they use it to grow big and strong. Scraps that were once trash now have an important new job.

Questions

1. What kinds of scraps can go into a compost pile?

_____

_____

2. Which living things make their home in the pile?

_____

_____

3. What do the scraps become as time goes by?

_____

_____

4. Who spreads the rich soil around the plants?

_____

_____

5. How does compost help a garden grow?

_____

_____

Words to know

compost: old food and leaves that turn into soil
scrap: a small bit of leftover food
crumbly: easy to break into small bits
gardener: a person who grows plants

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: Scraps Make Rich Soil

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: Scraps Make Rich Soil

Easier · 61 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.3

1. Apple cores, banana peels, and old leaves.
2. Bugs, worms, and fungi.
3. Dark soil.
4. A gardener.
5. It is rich soil that helps them grow big and strong.

Triangle: Scraps Make Rich Soil

This passage · 95 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.4

1. Apple cores, banana peels, and old leaves.
2. Tiny bugs, worms, and fungi.
3. Dark, crumbly soil.
4. A gardener.
5. It gives plants rich soil so they can grow big and strong.

Square: Scraps Make Rich Soil

Harder · 97 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.6

1. Apple cores, banana peels, and old leaves.
2. Tiny bugs, worms, and fungi.
3. Dark, crumbly soil.
4. A gardener.
5. It gives plants rich soil, so they can grow big and strong.