Name: _____ Date: _____

Worms Turn Banana Peels into Dirt

Circle group

A banana peel does not have to go in the trash. It can become rich dirt for a garden. This is called composting.

A compost pile has food scraps and yard waste, like apple cores, eggshells, and dry leaves. Tiny living things start to eat the scraps. They are too small to see. They are called microbes. Worms and beetles help too. The scraps break down. The middle of the pile gets warm.

After a few months, the pile looks different. It is dark and crumbly. It smells like a forest. Gardeners mix it into the soil. It feeds plants. It helps soil hold water.

Meat and greasy food do not go in. They can bring pests. Most people leave them out.

Questions

1. What is composting?

_____

_____

2. What goes into a compost pile?

_____

_____

3. What are microbes?

_____

_____

4. What happens to the middle of the pile?

_____

_____

5. How does finished compost help a garden?

_____

_____

6. Why do most people leave meat out of the pile?

_____

_____

Words to know

composting: turning old food and leaves into rich soil
scraps: small bits of food that are left over
microbes: living things too tiny to see
gardeners: people who grow 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: _____

Worms Turn Banana Peels into Dirt

Triangle group

A banana peel does not have to go in the trash. It can become rich dirt for a garden. This is called composting.

A compost pile is a mix of food scraps and yard waste, like apple cores, eggshells, and dry leaves. Tiny living things, too small to see, start to eat the scraps. They are called microbes. Bigger helpers join in, like worms and beetles. As they eat, the scraps break down, and the middle of the pile gets warm.

After some months, the pile no longer looks like peels and leaves. It turns into dark, crumbly stuff that smells like a forest floor. Gardeners mix it into the soil. It feeds plants and helps the soil hold water.

Not everything goes in. Meat and greasy leftovers can attract pests. So most home composters leave them out.

Questions

1. What is composting?

_____

_____

2. What kinds of things go into a compost pile?

_____

_____

3. What are microbes?

_____

_____

4. What happens to the middle of the pile as the scraps break down?

_____

_____

5. How does finished compost help a garden?

_____

_____

6. Why do most home composters leave out meat?

_____

_____

Words to know

composting: turning old food and leaves into rich soil
scraps: small bits of food that are left over
microbes: living things too tiny to see
gardeners: people who grow 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: _____

Worms Turn Banana Peels into Dirt

Square group

A banana peel does not have to be thrown into the trash, because it can be transformed into rich dirt for a garden. This process is called composting.

A compost pile is a mixture of food scraps and yard waste, such as apple cores, eggshells, and dry leaves. Tiny living things that are far too small to see, called microbes, begin to feed on the scraps, and bigger helpers like worms and beetles soon join them. As they eat, the scraps break down, and the middle of the pile becomes warm.

After several months, the pile no longer resembles peels and leaves. Instead, it has turned into dark, crumbly material that smells like a forest floor. Gardeners mix it into the soil, where it nourishes plants and helps the soil hold water.

Not everything belongs in the pile, though. Meat and greasy leftovers can attract pests, so most home composters keep them out.

Questions

1. What is the name for turning food scraps into rich dirt?

_____

_____

2. Which kinds of things are mixed into a compost pile?

_____

_____

3. What are microbes?

_____

_____

4. What happens to the middle of the pile as the scraps break down?

_____

_____

5. In what two ways does finished compost help the soil and plants?

_____

_____

6. Why do most home composters keep meat and greasy leftovers out of the pile?

_____

_____

Words to know

composting: turning old food and leaves into rich soil
scraps: small bits of food that are left over
microbes: living things too tiny to see
gardeners: people who grow 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: Worms Turn Banana Peels into Dirt

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

Circle: Worms Turn Banana Peels into Dirt

Easier · 122 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 1.5

1. Turning food scraps into rich dirt for a garden.
2. Apple cores, eggshells, and dry leaves.
3. Tiny living things that are too small to see.
4. It gets warm.
5. It feeds plants and helps soil hold water.
6. Meat can bring pests.

Triangle: Worms Turn Banana Peels into Dirt

This passage · 138 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3

1. Turning food scraps into rich dirt for a garden.
2. Apple cores, eggshells, and dry leaves.
3. Tiny living things that are too small to see.
4. It gets warm.
5. It feeds plants and helps the soil hold water.
6. Meat can attract pests.

Square: Worms Turn Banana Peels into Dirt

Harder · 153 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 6.5

1. Composting.
2. Food scraps and yard waste, like apple cores, eggshells, and dry leaves.
3. Tiny living things that are far too small to see.
4. It becomes warm.
5. It nourishes plants and helps the soil hold water.
6. They can attract pests.