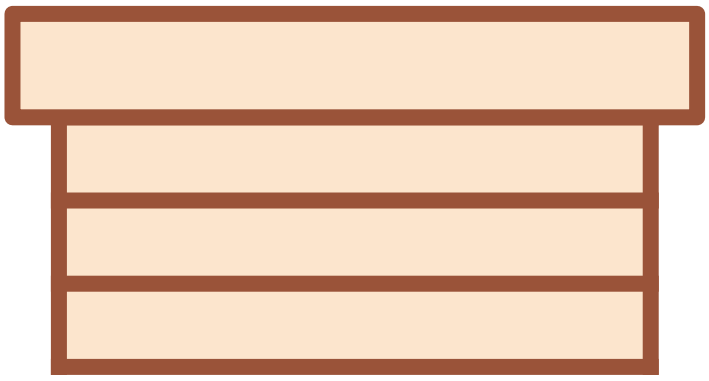
Cut out these images and give each student one set of cards. Students will put the cards in the order that they believe they belong.

Name _____
Date _____

Sci Sho Kids: How Compost is Made Companion Activity

decomposes	**dirt**	**important**
worms	**Plants**	**garden**
rot	**energy**	**decomposers**
	nutrients	

Compost is a special kind of _____ that you can make by setting aside certain kinds of trash and letting it_____. You can use compost in your_____ to grow flowers or vegetables. When something _____ it breaks down into small pieces. Decomposing is helped along by a group of living things called _____. Decomposers get their _____ by breaking down things that were once alive. Decomposers basically eat our garbage! Decomposers include things like mushrooms, bugs, and _____. Some decomposers may even be too small to see. Even though it may sound pretty gross, this job is really _____. Decomposers turn these leftover parts into _____. Compost is full of nutrients. Our bodies need nutrients. _____ need nutrients too. Without decomposers, plants would not be able to get the nutrients that they need.



Fill this bin with the things it needs to create compost. Label the things that you draw.

Name _____
Date _____

Sci Sho Kids: How Compost is Made Companion Activity Answer Key

decomposes	**dirt**	**important**
worms	**Plants**	**garden**
rot	**energy**	**decomposers**
	nutrients	

Compost is a special kind of **dirt** that you can make by setting aside certain kinds of trash and letting it **rot**. You can use compost in your **garden** to grow flowers or vegetables. When something **decomposes** it breaks down into small pieces. Decomposing is helped along by a group of living things called **decomposers**. Decomposers get their **energy** by breaking down things that were once alive. Decomposers basically eat our garbage! Decomposers include things like mushrooms, bugs, and **worms**. Some decomposers may even be too small to see. Even though it may sound pretty gross, this job is really **important**. Decomposers turn these leftover parts into **nutrients**. Compost is full of nutrients. Our bodies need nutrients. **Plants** need nutrients too. Without decomposers, plants would not be able to get the nutrients that they need.

Fill this bin with the things it needs to create compost. Label the things that you draw.

Team Members _____

Date _____

Investigating the Composting Process: Control Group

Complete the following steps in order. After each step, check it off!

Step	Directions	✓
1	Add a layer of soil to the container.	
2	Add a layer of green waste to the container.	
3	Add a layer of soil to the container.	
4	Add a layer of brown waste and shredded paper to the container.	
5	Repeat steps 1-4.	
6	Pour the water into the container to make all the layers wet.	
7	Put the top back on the container.	
8	Using a permanent marker, mark the level of each layer.	
9	Place the bottle in a sunny location in the classroom.	

Team Members _____
Date _____

Investigating the Composting Process: No Green Waste Group

Complete the following steps in order. After each step, check it off!

Step	Directions	✓
1	Add a layer of soil to the container.	
2	Add a layer of soil to the container.	
3	Add a layer of brown waste and shredded paper to the container.	
4	Repeat steps 1-3.	
5	Pour the water into the container to make all the layers wet.	
6	Put the top back on the container.	
7	Using a permanent marker, mark the level of each layer.	
8	Place the bottle in a sunny location in the classroom.	

Team Members _____
Date _____

Investigating the Composting Process: No Brown Waste Group

Complete the following steps in order. After each step, check it off!

Step	Directions	✓
1	Add a layer of soil to the container.	
2	Add a layer of green waste to the container.	
3	Add a layer of soil to the container.	
4	Repeat steps 1-4.	
5	Pour the water into the container to make all the layers wet.	
6	Put the top back on the container.	
7	Using a permanent marker, mark the level of each layer.	
8	Place the bottle in a sunny location in the classroom.	

Team Members _____
Date _____

Investigating the Composting Process: No Water Group

Complete the following steps in order. After each step, check it off!

Step	Directions	✓
1	Add a layer of soil to the container.	
2	Add a layer of green waste to the container.	
3	Add a layer of soil to the container.	
4	Add a layer of brown waste and shredded paper to the container.	
5	Repeat steps 1-4.	
6	Put the top back on the container.	
7	Using a permanent marker, mark the level of each layer.	
8	Place the bottle in a sunny location in the classroom.	

Team Members _____

Date _____

Investigating the Composting Process: No Sun Group

Complete the following steps in order. After each step, check it off!

Step	Directions	✓
1	Add a layer of soil to the container.	
2	Add a layer of green waste to the container.	
3	Add a layer of soil to the container.	
4	Add a layer of brown waste and shredded paper to the container.	
5	Repeat steps 1-4.	
6	Pour the water into the container to make all the layers wet.	
7	Put the top back on the container.	
8	Using a permanent marker, mark the level of each layer.	
9	Place the bottle in a dark location in the classroom, like inside a cupboard.	

Team Members _____

Date _____

Investigating the Composting Process: No Sun Group

Complete the following steps in order. After each step, check it off!

Step	Directions	✓
1	Add a layer of soil to the container.	
2	Add a layer of green waste to the container.	
3	Add a layer of soil to the container.	
4	Add a layer of brown waste and shredded paper to the container.	
5	Repeat steps 1-4.	
6	Pour the water into the container to make all the layers wet.	
7	Put the top back on the container.	
8	Using a permanent marker, mark the level of each layer.	
9	Place the bottle in a dark location in the classroom, like inside a cupboard.	

Name_____
Team Members _____
Date _____

Investigating the Composting Process: Data Collection

What group are you in?
What is your hypothesis?

Day and Date	What are your observations?	Draw a picture to document what you see.
Day 1:		
Day 8:		
Day 15:		
Day 22:		
Day 29:		
Day 36:		
Day 43:		

What is your conclusion?
What is the class conclusion?