| Close Reading Worksheet (need 4/student) |
| --- |
| Fill out this table while reading the text for the first time. |
| Name of Text |  |
| Type of Text |  |
| Text Author/Publisher |  |
| Problem Vocabulary |  |
| Possible Important Vocabulary |  |
| Questions I have |  |
| Thoughts about the text |  |
| Reread the text; then discuss it with your partner or group. Try to determine the meaning of the problem vocabulary and the answers to your questions if they were not answered later in the text. |
| After discussion, write a summary of the text. |
|  |

Rubric (need 2/student)

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | 0 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | Your points |
| Introduction to composting | Not present | 1 of theseDefinition,Explanation, Discussion | 2 of theseDefinition,Explanation, Discussion  | All 3 of theseDefinition,Explanation, Discussion | All 3 well presented |  |
| Is composting good? | Not present | 1 piece of evidence | 2 pieces of evidence | 3 pieces of evidence | All 3 pieceswell presented or 4 pieces of evidence |  |
| Common Ways to compost | Not present | 1 way presented | 2 ways presented | 1 way presentedwith discussion or explanation | 2 ways presented with discussion or explanation |  |
| Conclusion | Not present | Includes something from 1 paragraph | Includes something from 2 paragraphs | Includes something from all 3 paragraphs | Includes something from all 3 paragraphs well presented |  |
| Standard English Components | 9+Errors | 7-8Errors | 5-6Errors | 3-4Errors | 0-2Errors |  |
| Organization | No organization |  | Partly organized |  | Well organized, easy to follow |  |
| Citations | 0-2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 |  |
| Citation Components | 9+Errors | 7-8Errors | 5-6Errors | 3-4Errors | 0-2Errors |  |
| In own words | Mostly copied directly from text |  | Some copied |  | In own words |  |
| Essay | 1 complete paragraph(5-7 sentences) | 2 complete paragraphs | 3 complete paragraphs | 4 complete paragraphs | 5 complete paragraphs |  |
| Accuracy |  Completely inaccurate |  | Few incorrect statements |  | No incorrect statements  |  |
| Project Illustrations | 6+ | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4-5 |  |

**MLA Citations** (3 per student)

Author\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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Format :Web

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**Format**:

Author’s last name, First name. “Article Title.” *Website Title.* Publisher, Date Written. Format. Date accessed. <website optional>.

**Example**:

Nordvist, Christian. “Why Is Smoking Bad For You?” *Medical News Today.* Medilexicon International, 3 Mar. 2011. Web. 5 Mar. 2013.

Author\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

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| Compare Reading Worksheet |
| --- |
| Fill out this table while reading the text for the first time. |
| Name of Text |  |  |
| Type of Text |  |  |
| Text Author/Publisher |  |  |
| Problem Vocabulary |  |  |
| Possible Important Vocabulary |  |  |
| Questions I have |  |  |
| Thoughts about the text |  |  |
| How are the two text DIFFERENT? | How are the two text DIFFERENT? EPA WRRSWMD |
|  |  |  |

Lexile Information on Articles-DO NOT PRINT FOR STUDENTS

These are difficult articles and should be discussed as a class. Difficult vocabulary should be identified and clarified.

According to Lexile.com:

1. Composting with Willie the Worm: Lexile level 950L
2. Definition of Composting: Lexile level 1770L
3. Composting Techniques: Lexile level 1660L
4. Backyard Composting: Lexile level 1310 L
5. Food Waste Chart: Lexile level not available-information not in text form.

Text #1

**Composting with Willie the Worm**

|  |
| --- |
| **Hi Kids! My name is Willie the Worm and today I will be your compost host!** **Composting is a great way to help the environment and it something that everyone** **can do! Follow along as I tell you more about composting.** |

**Introduction**

Have you ever wondered how you can change garbage into treasure? If you said "COMPOSTING," you would be correct!

Because landfills are filling up so quickly, it is up to us to find new ways to get rid of our garbage. About 30% of all the garbage in the United States is made up of waste from food and yards. Composting is a great way to recycle household and lawn waste. This waste includes grass clippings, egg shells, and orange peels. Composting is a biological process that occurs when tiny, microscopic organisms break down old plant and animal tissues and recycle them to make new, healthy soil. These old plant and animal tissues are often called organic wastes.

The experience of composting shows us that nature is a cycle. Things grow, die, decay, and return to the earth to help other things grow. Worms, along with other tiny organisms help this process along by digging and eating some of the things in the dirt. "Yuck!" you say? Well, hopefully you will see that organic wastes can become beautiful and healthy soil in which you can grow flowers, crops, and other plants.

**Compost Recipe**



Now that you have a location and perhaps a container in which to store your pile, what should you put in it? Your "recipe" for great compost is made up of two basic things: green stuff and brown stuff. Green stuff is materials like grass clippings, lettuce scraps, weeds, and other plant wastes. These green materials have high amounts of the element nitrogen. The compost pile needs nitrogen in order to help the micro-organisms work properly. In addition to nitrogen, you also need plenty of the element carbon in your compost pile. Carbon gives the micro-organisms energy to do their jobs. Carbon is found in brown stuff such as leaves and pine needles.

There are a few no-no's in composting. You should not put the following materials in your compost pile:

* **Meat scraps**
* **Bones**
* **Dairy products such as milk, cheese, or ice cream**
* **Oily foods**

These products attract rodents and may cause the compost pile to stink! Yuck!

You can put small scraps of newspaper in your pile because it is biodegradable. You can also throw in droppings from small animals such as hamsters and gerbils.

Citation:

Article title: Composting with Willie the Worm

Website title: Michigan Kids

Publisher: State of Michigan

Accessed: 9/13/2013

[http://www.michigan.gov/kids/0,1607,7-247-49067-62499--,00.html#print](http://www.michigan.gov/kids/0%2C1607%2C7-247-49067-62499--%2C00.html#print)

Text #2

Definition of Composting

***Definition of Composting /*** ***What’s Compost***

[Composting](http://www.benefits-of-recycling.com/howdoescompostingwork/), often described as nature’s way of [recycling](http://www.benefits-of-recycling.com/whatisrecycling/), is the biological process of breaking up of organic waste such as [food waste](http://www.benefits-of-recycling.com/foodwastecomposting/), [manure](http://www.benefits-of-recycling.com/compostingmanure/), [leaves](http://www.benefits-of-recycling.com/compostingleaves/), [grass trimmings](http://www.benefits-of-recycling.com/compostinggrass/), [paper](http://www.benefits-of-recycling.com/compostingpaper/), [worms](http://www.benefits-of-recycling.com/wormcomposting/), and [coffee grounds](http://www.benefits-of-recycling.com/compostingcoffeegrounds/), etc., into an extremely useful humus-like substance by various micro-organisms including bacteria, fungi and actinomycetes in the presence of oxygen.

Actinomycetes are similar to fungus in the way they grow and spread, but its distinguishing elements are that the types of materials they are efficient at decomposing. The active nature in this microscopic bacteria and the sheer number present (about 10 million per 1 gram of soil), make them highly effective at breaking down materials like tree bark, [newspaper](http://www.benefits-of-recycling.com/compostingnewspaper/), and other hard organic material.

Today, the use of composting to turn organic wastes into a valuable resource is expanding rapidly in many countries, as landfill space becomes scarce and expensive, and as people become more aware of the impact they have on the environment.

***Definition of Composting /*** ***A Natural Cycle***

Decomposition naturally happens almost everywhere even without exerting too much effort because nature has been generating compost as an element to the Earth’s life and death cycle, but without the perfect mixture, and ingredients, the process slows down and may eventually result to unpleasant compost.

All organic matter will decompose, given enough time to devolve and perish.  Nevertheless, not all products come out perfect for planting.  There are important factors to consider such as temperature, the biological process, and the mechanical process.

Low temperature interrupts the composting progress, as it cannot reach the temperature hot enough to kill pathogens.  It eventually disallows the booming of decomposers and microbes.  However, bacteria performs exothermic actions as they help in the process of decomposition, so it helps the temperature to become higher than that of the environment where decomposition takes place, but a cold weather still slows down the progress. A hot temperature stimulates the microbes to flourish even faster.

***Definition of Composting /*** ***The Human Factor***

The help of humans is necessary for the mechanical process to take place.  Non-biodegradable should be separated from the biodegradable matters.  Biodegradable matter that has a lot of pathogens living in it should be in a hotter environment when the decomposition takes place.

These pathogens usually live in manure of a living organism that is not a vegetarian.  Scraps of animal meat and dairy products have a lot of pathogens living in it too.

The biological process is the very important part of the decomposition procedure.  As nature conceives decomposition, it will shorten the process if the combination is right.

Water, nitrogen, carbon, and oxygen all together is a perfect mixture to combine with organic matter to materialize the process of decomposition.  This procedure will result to productions of compost which will eventually help the soil become healthy for planting.

***Sources***

<http://www.epa.gov/osw/conserve/rrr/composting/index.htm>

<http://www.epa.gov/osw/conserve/rrr/composting/questions.htm>

<http://www.epa.gov/osw/conserve/rrr/composting/benefits.htm>

Thank you for visiting the *Definition of Composting* page.

Citation:

Article title: Definition of Composting

Website title: Benefits of Recycling

Publisher: Paul Harrison and Avenstar Productions

Accessed: 9/13/2013

<http://www.benefits-of-recycling.com/definitionofcomposting/>

Text #3

Composting Techniques

***Composting Techniques /*** ***Using Nature’s Gifts***

Earth and nature has been through numbers of period, era, and evolution but the amazing process it conceives still astounds us and gives us the feeling of surprise and amazement.  We consider nature’s products as God’s gift.  Compost to a [gardener](http://www.benefits-of-recycling.com/gardencomposting/) is what fish is to fishermen.

Although nature conceives compost inherently, there are ways and techniques to create better than the usual results.  There are times that it shortens the process which saves the time of people.  There are also times when it produces a healthier product.

We could maximize the benefits we could get from our resources through proper procedure.

***Composting Techniques /*** ***Balance***

Basically composting is all about balance.  As earthworms and insects help digest the plant to make the compost healthy, the finished compost also helps boost the activity of Earthworms and insects.  It is still magical how this perfect mixture produces nutrients to the soil.

People have already found the secrets to help improve the process of composting.  Compost piles in the old times are created manually but nowadays, [composting bins](http://www.benefits-of-recycling.com/compostingbins/) come in a wide variety. [Composting toilets](http://www.benefits-of-recycling.com/selfcontainedcompostingtoilet/) already exist today.  There are also compost aerating tools for easy mixing, and people have already experimented and distinguished what mixture can create compost activators.

Piles should neither be too dry nor too wet.  Unpleasant odor often exists because of compost packed too tight.  It needs to have air passage because bad odor activates when there is poor air circulation.  Compost is not just about biodegradable scraps but it requires a certain amount of nitrogen, oxygen, carbon, and nitrogen so we have to make sure that our compost piles allow the passage of these.

Any excess or insufficient ingredient may create an unpleasant result like over-watering.  Leaves that fall from trees, grass clippings, or dried plants contribute carbon to our compost.

***Composting Techniques /*** ***Knowledge is Power***

To achieve the perfect balance, we must research about our compost materials.  We should know what is high in carbon or what lacks nitrogen.  When the insects in your compost already have infested, this indicates that the fruits and veggies in your compost are excessive than what needed.

The first step in composting is researching, followed by segregating, then proper [composting](http://www.benefits-of-recycling.com/definitionofcomposting/), and the last is making sure we have used all our resources to make our compost healthy.

***Sources***

<http://cityofdavis.org/pw/compost/techniques.cfm>

http://www.compostsantacruzcounty.org/Home\_Composting/Backyard\_Composting/by\_techniques.htm

Thank you for visiting the *Composting Techniques* page.

Citation:

Article title: Composting Techniques

Website title: Benefits of Recycling

Publisher: Paul Harrison and Avenstar Productions

Accessed: 9/13/2013

<http://www.benefits-of-recycling.com/compostingtechniques/>



Text #5

Citation:

Article title: Reducing Food Waste

Website title: Wastes

Publisher: United States Environmental Protection Agency

Accessed: 9/14/2013

<http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/foodwaste/>

Composting with Willie the Worm:

[http://www.michigan.gov/kids/0,1607,7-247-49067-62499--,00.html#print](http://www.michigan.gov/kids/0%2C1607%2C7-247-49067-62499--%2C00.html#print)

Definition of Composting: [http://www.benefits-of-recycling.com/definition of composting/](http://www.benefits-of-recycling.com/definition%20of%20composting/)

Composting Techniques: <http://www.benefits-of-recycling.com/compostingtechniques/>

Backyard Composting: Local brochure <http://www.whiteriverswmd.org/sites/default/files/backyard-composting.pdf>

Backyard Composting: EPA Brochure

<http://www.epa.gov/wastes/conserve/tools/greenscapes/pubs/compost-guide.pdf>

Food Waste Chart: <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/foodwaste/>

Composting with Willie the Worm:

[http://www.michigan.gov/kids/0,1607,7-247-49067-62499--,00.html#print](http://www.michigan.gov/kids/0%2C1607%2C7-247-49067-62499--%2C00.html#print)

Definition of Composting: [http://www.benefits-of-recycling.com/definition of composting/](http://www.benefits-of-recycling.com/definition%20of%20composting/)

Composting Techniques: <http://www.benefits-of-recycling.com/compostingtechniques/>

Backyard Composting: Local brochure <http://www.whiteriverswmd.org/sites/default/files/backyard-composting.pdf>

Backyard Composting: EPA Brochure

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Backyard Composting: Local brochure <http://www.whiteriverswmd.org/sites/default/files/backyard-composting.pdf>

Backyard Composting: EPA Brochure

<http://www.epa.gov/wastes/conserve/tools/greenscapes/pubs/compost-guide.pdf>

Food Waste Chart: <http://www.epa.gov/epawaste/conserve/foodwaste/>