

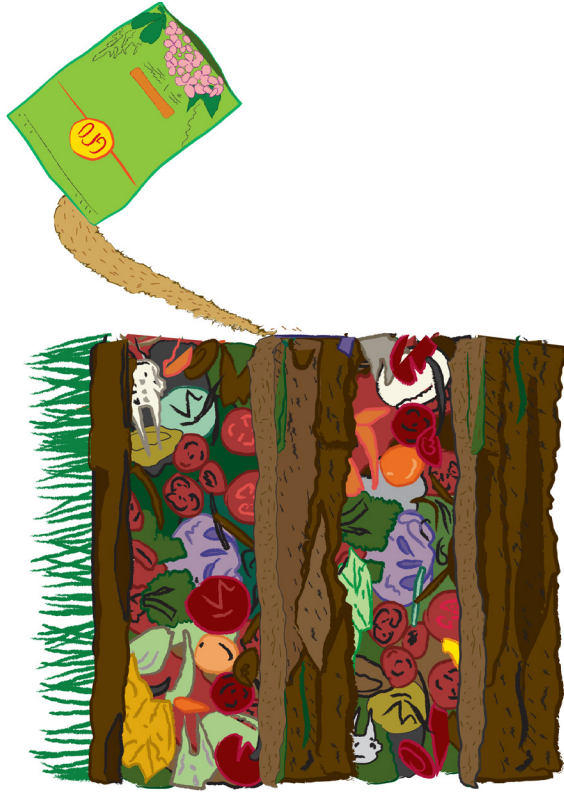
# Compost

Cycle 18 Decodable Reader



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Did you know that old food  
can be usable in a garden?

Compost is a mixture of garden scraps and kitchen vegetable scraps. When the scraps rot, they can be used in your garden to help vegetables and other plants grow.

It is possible to make your own compost. To do this, you must first make a compost pile.



The pile is made up of layers, sort of like a birthday cake. To make the layers, begin with scraps. Sprinkle the scraps with plant food (plant food can be bought at the store), and then soil. Repeat until there are a few layers.



After a few weeks, use a shovel to mix up the pile. This will help the scraps to decay faster. You'll know it's ready when it becomes crumbly.

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It will probably start to smell bad, too. Some people say it smells horrible, but some people do not mind it as much.

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Although making your own compost is doable, it can take months for it to be ready. If you want to save time, compost is available to buy, too.



Once it is ready, or once you have bought the compost, spread it through the soil in your garden. The rotting scraps may smell terrible, but they will help your plants and vegetables grow!