



The Dirt on Composting



1. What is compost and why is it important?

2. Name two living things that are decomposers. How do decomposers help nature recycle?

3. What are two problems with Earth's topsoil? How can we keep it healthy?

4. Name the harmful gas that leaks out of our landfills. What does it do to our atmosphere?

5. What do you think is the worst thing about a landfill? How can we keep food out of our trash?



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Answers:

1. What is compost and why is it important?

Compost is organic material that looks like dirt and is full of nutrients.

2. Name two living things that are decomposers. How do decomposers help nature recycle?

Millipedes, banana slugs, worms, mushrooms. Decomposers eat organic matter, break it down and turn it into compost.

3. What are two problems with Earth's topsoil? How can we keep it healthy?

Most topsoil is covered by roads and buildings and too much farming has led to depletion of nutrients in our topsoil, etc. Putting compost on topsoil keeps it healthy.

4. Name the harmful gas that leaks out of our landfills. What does it do to our atmosphere?

Methane. It is a greenhouse gas that traps heat from the sun in our atmosphere. This causes global warming.

5. What do you think is the worst thing about a landfill? How can we keep food out of our trash?

Smell. Garbage sits there a long time and produces global warming gas. It is a waste of land space. Compost to keep food out of the trash!
