



Lesson Plan: Compost, Grade 2 Social Studies

Activity

Food in our community.

Introduction

Have you ever thought about where your food comes from and what happens to your food waste in the Region of Durham? Interconnections are an important part of our food network. Whether you get your food from the grocery store, a local market, or your own garden – the food we eat can be connected back to the natural environment. That means where we live, and the health of the environment, plays an important role in feeding our communities. In this lesson, students will investigate the connection between where they live and the food they eat, recommend actions to reduce food waste, and learn how composting is part of a sustainable approach to managing our community's organic waste.

Curriculum Connections

Social Studies, 2018 (revised)

Grade 2

- Strand B: People and Environments

Learning Objectives

1. Make connections between soil, plants, and the food we eat
2. Explain why food waste is a problem
3. Identify strategies to reduce food waste
4. Describe what happens to food waste in their community

Resources Provided

- Module: Compost

Activity

1. As a class, have an open discussion using the questions provided below.
 - a. Why is it important that we have access to food?
 - b. Where do most people in your community get their food from? How might this be different from where other communities get their food?
 - c. How does location and climate influence the types of food people eat in different communities?
 - d. How does the various seasons in Ontario affect what we can grow at different times of the year?

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- e. What are some examples of foods that we grow in our community? Can you think of any places that might have difficulty growing these foods?
 - f. What are some examples of foods that are difficult to grow in our community? Can you think of any places that might be able to grow these foods?
2. Explain that it takes a lot of resources and energy to grow the food we eat, to get the food to people that want to purchase it, and then to collect, sort, and process any left-over food waste.
 3. Ask students to list three times they have thrown away food or food scraps in the last one or two days. Examples include fruit peels and cores, crusts, and meat bones. Can they think of time when they have thrown away food that could have been eaten? Examples include leftovers from taking too much food during snacks and meals, foods they didn't like, food that wasn't stored properly or that was left too long and spoiled.
 4. As a class, discuss why food waste might be a problem.
 5. Ask students when they do have food waste, where do they put this waste?
 6. Explain waste diversion and how food waste (or organic materials) can be diverted away from the garbage by using the green bin or backyard composters.

Waste diversion is the process of diverting materials away from the garbage. While we encourage you to eat what you buy, the Region's Green Bin program can help take care of what's left. Backyard composting is also a great way to divert this waste!

Composting is the process of turning organic material, such as garden and food scraps, into a dirt-like material called **humus**. This process works with the help of bugs, insects, and microorganisms (a microscopic organism such as bacteria and fungi), combined with air and water. Compost contains nutrients that help to improve soil conditions. This process completes a full cycle putting waste back into use to grow fruits, vegetables as well as grains and grasses that feeds animals.

7. Have students write down individual or collective actions to reduce food waste in their home, school, and community.

Extension Activity

Have students prepare a poster promoting one of the actions they identified to reduce food waste in their home, school, and community. This poster can be shared with the class or posted within the school.

Summary

Composting is a great way to divert organic waste away from the garbage. Using finished compost on lawns and in gardens returns important nutrients back to the soil and improves overall soil conditions. Compost can be used to grow new plants and food - this is a great circular approach to managing our organic waste!

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Expanded Curriculum Connections

Grade 2, Social Studies, 2018 (revised)

B: People and Environments: Global Communities

B1. Application: Variations in Global Communities

- B1.1 compare selected communities from around the world, including their own community, in terms of the lifestyles of people in those communities and some ways in which the people meet their needs
- B1.3 demonstrate an understanding of the importance of sustainability in people's interrelationship with their natural environment and of some of the consequences of sustainable and/or non-sustainable actions

B2. Inquiry: Natural Environments and the Ways of Life

- B2.1 formulate questions to guide investigations into some aspects of the interrelationship between the natural environment of selected communities and the ways in which people live

B3. Understanding Context: Physical Features and Communities

- 3.6. identify basic human needs (e.g., for food, water, clothing, transportation, shelter), and describe some ways in which people in communities around the world meet these needs