

COMPOST

Ecotalk

ANAEROBIC - when there is no oxygen in a compost pile.

BACTERIA - a tiny creature. A microscope is needed to see bacteria.

BEDDING - hay, straw and other things used in animal pens, stalls, stables.

BROWN - anything that has a log of carbon is called brown.

CALCIUM CARBONATE - is also called lime. It looks like flour and is used to keep odour and flies away from waste.

CARBON - found in brown items. Carbon gives energy to the bugs and insects in a compost pile.

CASTINGS - are the things worms make after eating waste. Castings make good fertilizer.

CHEMICAL FERTILIZERS - are man-made fertilizers used to help plants grow. Some chemical fertilizers are good but many are harmful to people and the environment.

COMPARISON - to judge one thing against another thing. People who buy cars do a comparison of dirt price so they can get a "good deal".

COMPOST - if waste is carefully treated it will become compost. Compost looks like dirt and it helps plants to grow.

COMPOSTER - a box, barrel or other container that holds waste and allows the waste to rot.

COMPOSTING - a way to turn waste into dirt.

CROSS SECTION - a view of something where part of the object is missing. Cutting a cake shows a cross section of the cake's layers.

DECOMPOSITION - happens when something rots.

ENERGY - is the power used to move vehicles, make lamps glow and heat homes. Gasoline, propane and the sun all provide energy. The food we eat gives me energy to breathe, think, walk and talk.

GREEN - anything that has a lot of nitrogen is called green.

LANDFILL - is a pit or hole in the ground used to hold garbage.

COMPOST

Ecotalk (cont.)

MICRO-ORGANISMS - are small creatures a person cannot see with a microscope. Bacteria is a micro-organism.

NITROGEN - found in green items. Nitrogen helps to make more bugs and insects in a compost pile.

OPAQUE - something that does not let light through. A glass bottle would be clear but a green garbage bag would be opaque.

OVERUSE - to use something too much or too many times.

PILE - a group of things laying on top of each other. For example a notebook has sheets of piled paper.

QUARTER - one of four equal parts. For examples the numbers 12, 3, 6 and 9 divide a clock into quarter. The space between 12 and 3 is one quarter.

RATIO - a way to show a type of division. If a person had some mixed fruit that was five oranges and 2 apples the ratio of oranges to apples would be 5:2.

RED WIGGLERS - a type of worm. Red wigglers are used to turn waste into fertilizers.

REPRODUCE - to make more of the same thing. When people have children they reproduce. When a factory makes bolts it is also reproducing something.

SEEDS - is the beginning of a plant. With water and food a seed can grow into a plant.

SOIL - dirt found on the ground. Soil is made from tiny pieces of rocks.

SURFACE AREA - the outside of an object. A box has six sides. By measuring the sides you could find the surface area.

VERMICOMPOSTING - a way to handle waste. Worms are used to turn waste into fertilizer.

VOLUME - the amount of something an object can hold. Milk cartons come in many sizes. Some are 1 litre, some are 500 millilitres and some 250 millilitres. The size of the carton is really their volume.

WASTE - is the things left over from people's activity. Food scraps, old newspapers, grass clippings and many other things are waste. Most waste can be reduced, reused or recycled. Only a very small portion is truly useless; this is called garbage.