

Create Your Own Mini-Composter at Home



Materials You'll Need:

- Empty 2 liter soda bottle (Use a transparent bottle to allow light in!)
- Scissors
- Food scraps
- Soil
- Water spray bottle

Instructions:

To start this experiment, make sure to have permission and/or help from someone at home before you get started.

1. First, rinse and remove the label from your empty soda bottle.
2. With help from an adult, or their permission, cut the top of the bottle off.
3. Layer a handful of soil on the bottom of the bottle. This creates a base for your compost experiment.
4. Next you will place a layer of food scraps (Optional: Cut up or blend food scraps before layering to speed up the decomposition process).
5. Continue alternating layers of food scraps and soil until your bottle is near full.
6. Be sure to finish with a top layer of soil.
7. Now that your bottle is full you'll need to add some moisture. Using a spray bottle, allow your layers to get damp (Less is more! You don't want your experiment to be too wet).
8. Now for the most important step! Hurry up and wait!

Place your experiment somewhere it will get lots of sunlight and add more water when you notice the soil begins to dry out. Observe your compost experiment a few times a week (Optional: take photos to compare how it changes week to week). Over time your food scraps will decompose and turn into soil. This process takes time, usually around 7-8 weeks.

Alternative Challenge:

You can include brown and green materials in your experiment to explore the decomposition process impacts of nitrogen and carbon.



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