

# COMPOST SUNDAE

**Subject:**  
Compost

**Audience:** K-2,  
3-5, 6-8, Nice  
after school  
activity

**Group Size:**  
classroom

**Setting:** inside  
or outside

**Time Frame:** 20  
min.

**Skills:** creating

**Vocabulary:**  
atmosphere,  
bacteria, fungi,  
carbon, nitrogen

## MATERIALS LIST

bowls  
spoons  
chocolate ice  
cream  
green coconut  
crushed pretzels  
7-Up  
chocolate  
sprinkles  
gummy worms  
chocolate chip  
cookies

## BACKGROUND MATERIAL:

Help to show children how a compost pile is built and works. Composting is a method of recycling yard trimmings and other organic material through natural biological decomposition. Composting occurs when macro and micro organisms break down organic materials in a compost pile. The final product - compost - is a dark, nutrient - and humus - rich material that can be easily and safely stored and applied to soil.

Here's a standard Compost Recipe

1. **START WITH A 6" - 8" LAYER OF HIGH-CARBON WASTES (the brown dry stuff),** such as dead leaves, woody brush and plant stalks.
2. **FOLLOW WITH A 2" LAYER OF HIGH-NITROGEN MATERIAL (the green stuff),** such as grass clippings, manure or vegetable scraps from the kitchen (avoid meats, fats and oils).
3. **ADD A 1" LAYER OF SOIL** or sod. Repeat the entire layering process. Water as you go, but don't saturate!

## ACTIVITY PROCEDURE:

A tasty compost pile to build -

Soil - a scoop of chocolate ice cream

Add to top of soil, a compost pile, any combination

grass - green coconut

leaves - crushed pretzels

water - 7-Up

Mix it with spoon, this is adding oxygen. The grass, leaves, water and oxygen are creating an ideal atmosphere for the growth of bacteria and fungi.

Now add: bacteria - chocolate sprinkles

worms - gummy worms

the bacteria, fungi and other critters consume the materials and create compost.

Wonderful yummy compost - crumbled chocolate chip or Oreo cookies.

Contributed by: Kathryn Smith, Fayette SWCD

Reference credit: Yard-waste at home handbook

