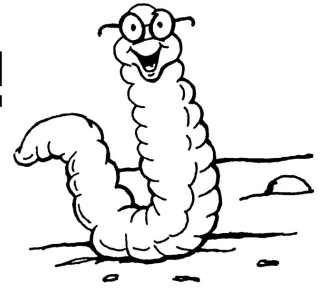




# Soil Factory in a Jar!



Soil is made up of rocks and minerals, organic matter, and spaces filled with air, water, insects, and microorganisms. Compost is an important component of soil in the form of decomposed organic material. Earthworms and other organisms that live in the soil help to break down – decompose - the organic material into a form that plant roots can use to get nutrients.

Have fun observing the decomposition process!

## What You Need

- Large glass jar or cut clear plastic bottle (with lid removed) filled with several inches of soil. (Soil that already has insects and organic material - small bits of leaves and branches - works best.)
- Dry ingredients (brown): brown leaves, small sticks, wood chips, pine needles
- Wet ingredients (green): vegetable/fruit scraps, coffee grounds, grass clippings
- Worms (optional)
- Water (water collected from a puddle outside works best)
- Pencil
- Worksheet (page 2)

## Instructions

1. Collect wet and dry ingredients to add to the container.
2. Add equal amounts of the ingredients to the container.
3. Add water to make the mixture damp (not soggy).
4. Place the container in a sunny location. Ask: What do you think is going to happen?
5. Observe the mixture daily and record observations.
6. Remember to add water to keep the mixture damp.
7. After your observations are complete, add the decomposed material to the garden.

## Just for fun

- Fill another container and put it in a dark location.
- Observe the differences between the container in the sunny location and the one in the dark.

***We want to share your observations!***

*Post to your social media and tag us at [treepeople\\_org](https://www.treepeople.org) #greenquarantine*

*This lesson is made possible through the generosity of Subaru of Sherman Oaks*



Name:

Age:



# My Observations

**Day 1:** *What do you observe? Take a photo of your mixture!*

**Day 2:** *What do you observe?*

**Day 3:** *What do you observe?*

**Day 4:** *What do you observe?*

**Day 5:** *What do you observe?*

**Day 6:** *What do you observe?*

**Day 7:** *What do you observe?*

**Day 8:** *What do you observe?*

**Day 9:** *What do you observe?*

**Day 10:** *What do you observe?*

**Day 11:** *What do you observe?*

**Day 12:** *What do you observe?*

**Day 13:** *What do you observe?*

**Day 14:** *How has your mixture changed from Day 1? Take a photo of your mixture!*