



Compost Virtual Tour Worksheet – High School

Use this worksheet to accompany the Compost Virtual Tour. It will help guide you through the tour, check for understanding, and think critically about what you are learning.

To Complete Throughout the Tour

- In which bin do the following items belong:

Metal **Food waste** **Hard plastics** **Soft plastics** **Clean/dry paper**
Yard waste **Broken ceramics** **Glass bottles/jars** **Pet waste** **Dirty/wet paper**
Paper cups and cartons

Compost	Recycle	Landfill
1.	1.	1.
2.	2.	2.
3.	3.	3.
	4.	
	5.	

Check Your Understanding

- Why is food waste an issue, and how does it contribute to climate change? What's one change you can make to waste less food?

- What are the most common contaminants in the green bin? Write a slogan, draw a poster, create a meme, or design an announcement to tell your peers these items don't belong.



- Recology makes sure to provide the right mixture of carbon and nitrogen-rich materials to best support our microorganisms in breaking compost down. What other measures does Recology take to provide the best habitat for the bacteria?

Composting Process

- Fill in the timeline below describing the six stages in the composting process.



Check Your Understanding

- In your own words, describe one or more benefits of using compost.
- What is a closed-loop system? Describe how the compost system is closed-loop.
- Plastic doesn't break down like organic material, it breaks apart into smaller pieces that pollute all faces of the earth. From what you've learned in this presentation, are PLA or compostable plastics the answer to the plastics crisis?

Dig Deeper – History of Compost

- Like many modern practices of sustainability, composting methods were first developed and used by native people across the globe. Spend some time conducting independent research on the origins of compost. Be prepared to discuss your findings in class.