

Vermicomposting – I'm getting it done!



Here is some basic information on how to start vermicomposting in your class.

Duration: 60 minutes

Material:

- . Opaque plastic storage bin, with lid
- . Newspaper
- . Earth
- . Worms
- . Food scraps

Level: all

What?

The goal of vermicomposting is to decompose organic matter in order to obtain quality fertilizer for gardening purposes. Red *Eisenia foetida* worms are used, 10 to 12 cm long. They are voracious eaters and are resilient.

How?

How to prepare the bedding:

- . Take a supply of finely-shredded newspaper.
- . Lightly moisten the newspaper.
- . Add a handful of earth and spread worms on top.
- . Add more newspaper, filling the bin halfway.

Food

Yes	No
Fruit and vegetable scraps	Meat or fish scraps
Plant remains	Greasy substances
Coffee grounds, with filter	Vinegary substances
Tea bags	Salty leftovers
Bread (unbuttered)	Animal excrements
Crushed eggshells	
Rice and pasta (without oil/sauce)	

Place food scraps in the bin and close the lid. Rotate food in the bedding. Worms can be fed one to three times per week.

Gathering compost

After three to six months, compost can be gathered. Worm compost is a mix of worm droppings and decomposed organic matter.

You can even contact specialised counsellors to come in and host a workshop in your classroom, for instance the good people from your local Éco-quartier.

