



## Compost FBIs

### BIG IDEAS

Today, you will learn about the process of turning food and yard waste into compost. Meet the COMPOST FBI's who break down compost so we can use it to make healthy soil!



### YOU WILL NEED:

- Pencil and/or colored pencils
- Paper or Journal
- [Compost Critters Worksheet](#)
- *Optional* - popsicle stick, or shovel and a pile of compost to dig in!
- *Optional* - Taste-Test: avocado toast - (browns) piece of toast or crackers, (green) avocado smash, (fungi) mushrooms on top, to “taste-test”

**GROW MINDS, CULTIVATE COMMUNITY**

## WHAT TO DO:

1. **REVIEW** the [Green Heart Rules of Respect](#). New to Green Heart lessons? Check out our [Respect the Garden](#) lesson.
2. **LISTEN:** to Ms. Amanda explain how your compost pile turns into healthy soil by clicking the [Compost Process Clip](#).
3. **ANSWER:** the following questions in your journal using the [Process of Compost Handout](#) to answer the following questions:
  - 1) How does your compost break down into healthy soil?
  - 2) Does compost break down by itself? Who helps break it down?
4. **LOOK:** at the table to see examples of the FBIs, the ones who help break down the compost.

| Compost FBIs   |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| Fungi  | Bacteria  | Invertebrates  |
| <p><b>Fungi</b> are simple living organisms that are neither animals nor plants.</p> <p><i>Examples: mold, mycelium, mushrooms</i></p>  | <p><b>Bacteria</b> <u>are microorganisms that we can't see with the human eye.</u></p> <p>They eat away at the ingredients in the compost pile and produce heat. Use your hand, or a thermometer to feel the heat and the bacteria working!</p> | <p><b>Invertebrates</b> are animals without a backbone, or spine.</p> <p><i>Examples: beetles, spiders, mites, pill bugs, and worms.</i></p>  |



5. **SEARCH:** your pile of compost, or an outdoor space for the FBI's.  
**CIRCLE:** the FBIs you find on the [Compost Critters Worksheet](#) and  
**LABEL:** if they are a fungi, bacteria, or invertebrate.
  
6. **TASTE-TEST (OPTIONAL)** - Try your avocado toast in 3...2...1... Taste test!
  - **WATCH:** [How to do a Green Heart Taste-Test: Rules & Ratings](#).
    - Give your taste-test a Green Heart rating.  
*3= the best thing you've ever tasted!, 2= it was okay, but not my favorite, 1= I don't really care for it*
  
7. **CLEAN-UP:** Put your Green Heart supplies back into a safe space and get ready for next week!

*For educator notes & to “dig deeper” see [here](#).*