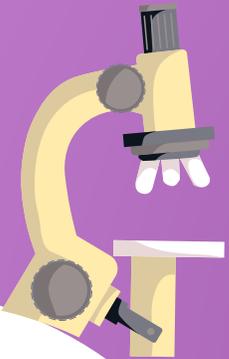


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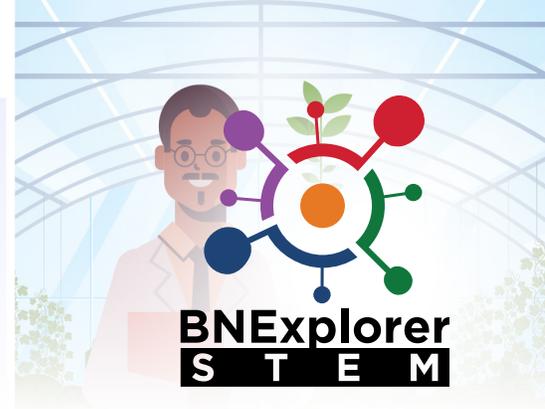


MISSION: COMPOSTING



3-8





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SPARK

Have you ever heard of composting? What do you already know about it? Watch this video to learn more.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Q5s4n9r-JGU>



Vocabulary:

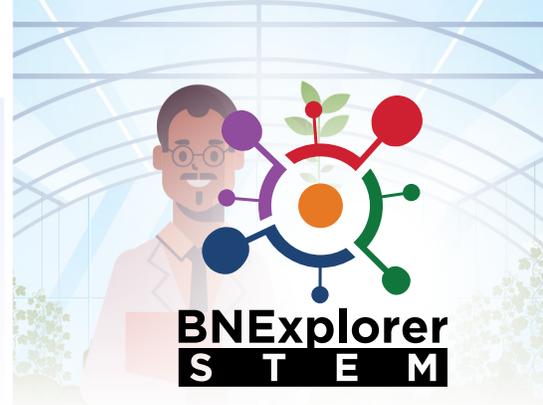
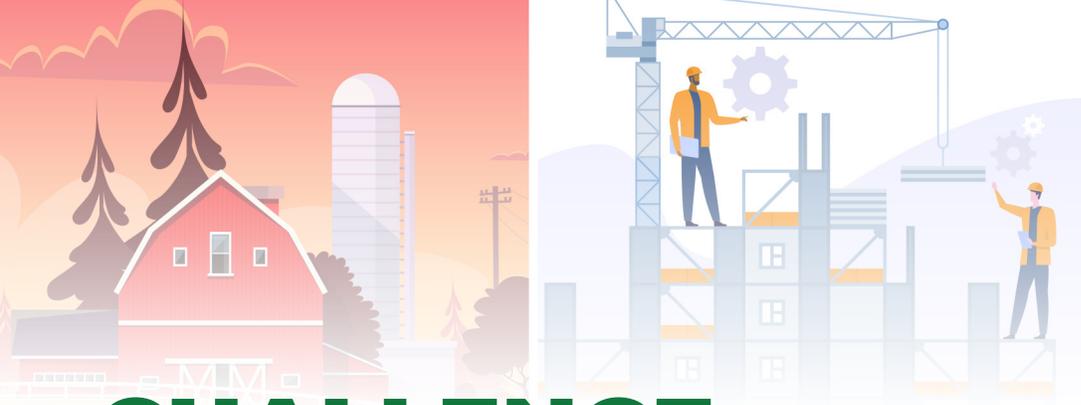
Biodegradable - capable of being decomposed by bacteria or other living organisms

Decay - rot or decompose through the action of bacteria and fungi

IMAGINE

Ask your family or friends if they have ever done composting? How do you think it will help the environment?





CHALLENGE

Now that you know what composting is, it's time to make your own compost bin!

These websites

(<https://www.pbs.org/parents/crafts-and-experiments/make-a-composter>

and

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/books/article/create-compost>)

include various ways to make a compost bin. Here are some steps to follow in making your compost bin:



Steps:

1. You can use a plastic bottle or bin, such as a 5 gallon bucket, depending on how large you would like your compost to be.
2. Layer your green and brown waste in the compost bin. Be sure to put the brown waste in first.
3. Add water to your compost bin.
4. Wait for your waste to compost. Turn it, or mix it, every so often to help the process go along.
5. Use your compost, which should now look like and smell like soil, to grow a plant. This will most likely take a while. In the meantime, check out these pictures of compost bins to see what yours will look like!





CHALLENGE QUESTION

What did you put in your compost bin, and how long did it take to compost?
What are you going to use your compost for?

How is composting beneficial to our environment?

EXPLORE

Visit the Ecology Action Center, which has community composting for Bloomington-Normal.

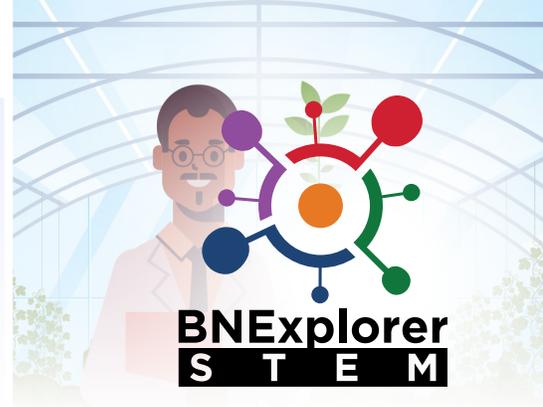
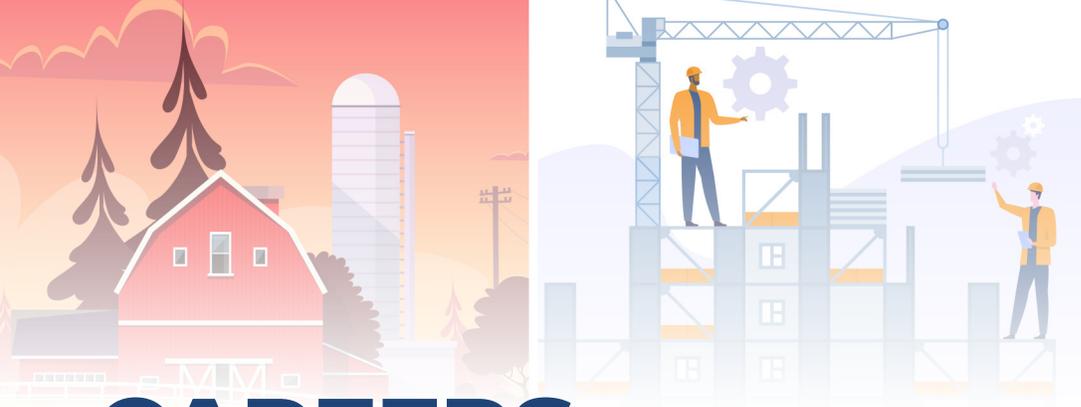


FUN FACT

Compost soil can reduce erosion and help control diseases and pests in plants.

<https://sites.google.com/site/compostheroes2/compost-fun-facts>





CAREERS

Elizabeth Reed, Director of Sustainability at ISU talks with BN Explorer Guide, Siri, about composting.



IDENTIFY

Go to this website

<https://www.epa.gov/sustainable-management-food/reducing-impact-wasted-food-feeding-soil-and-composting#benefits>

and click on “Benefits of Compost” to learn more about how composting helps the environment. Celebrate Earth Day this year by composting!



EXTEND YOUR KNOWLEDGE:

One way that some people have chosen to help sustain the Earth’s resources is by choosing to live off-grid. Click the following link to learn more about off-grid living and how composting has become a part of their lives.

<https://offgridworld.com/the-power-of-compost-can-you-power-he-at-your-off-grid-home-with-compost/>



According to an article from K-12 Dive, “a new World Wildlife Fund report estimates U.S. school food waste totals 530,000 tons per year and costs as much as \$9.7 million a day to manage, which



breaks down to about 39.2 pounds of food waste and 19.4 gallons of milk thrown out per school per year, based on the results from the 46-school sample across nine cities.” This means that schools are largely contributing to the amount of waste.

<https://www.k12dive.com/news/report-nations-school-food-waste-may-be-as-much-as-530k-tons-annually/568599/>

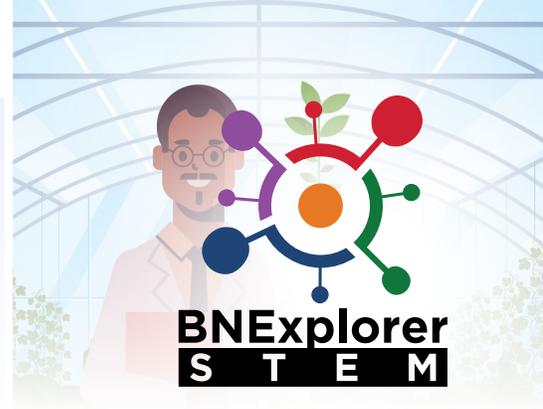
Create a presentation (slideshow, poster, argumentative paper) that would argue that schools should look to composting as a way to help reduce waste. Make sure to include:

- How much waste do schools contribute to the environment?
- How can a school use composting?
- Ideas for management of the school compost
- Benefits of a school compost
- Interesting facts that support school composting

After creating your presentation, present to a family member or friend!



EXPERIMENT NOTES



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