

COMPOST

What is compost?

Compost is **organic** material that has been **decomposed**. Organic material is anything from the earth – fruits, veggies, plants, dirt and more. When organic material decomposes, it breaks down into nutrients that fertilize the soil. Some people make their own compost to help their gardens or farm crops grow, but nature also makes its own compost! When plants die or when leaves fall from trees, they form **mulch** that protects the soil. Over time the dead leaves decompose into nutrients that feed the new plants. This is nature's way of recycling old materials.

DRAW THE CYCLE - The compost cycle is a type of life cycle, similar to the water cycle. Fill in the pictures to show each step of the compost cycle.

Organic – natural, living matter

Decomposed – when something is broken down into smaller parts

Mulch – a material, such as dead leaves or bark, spread around or over a plant to enrich or protect the soil

