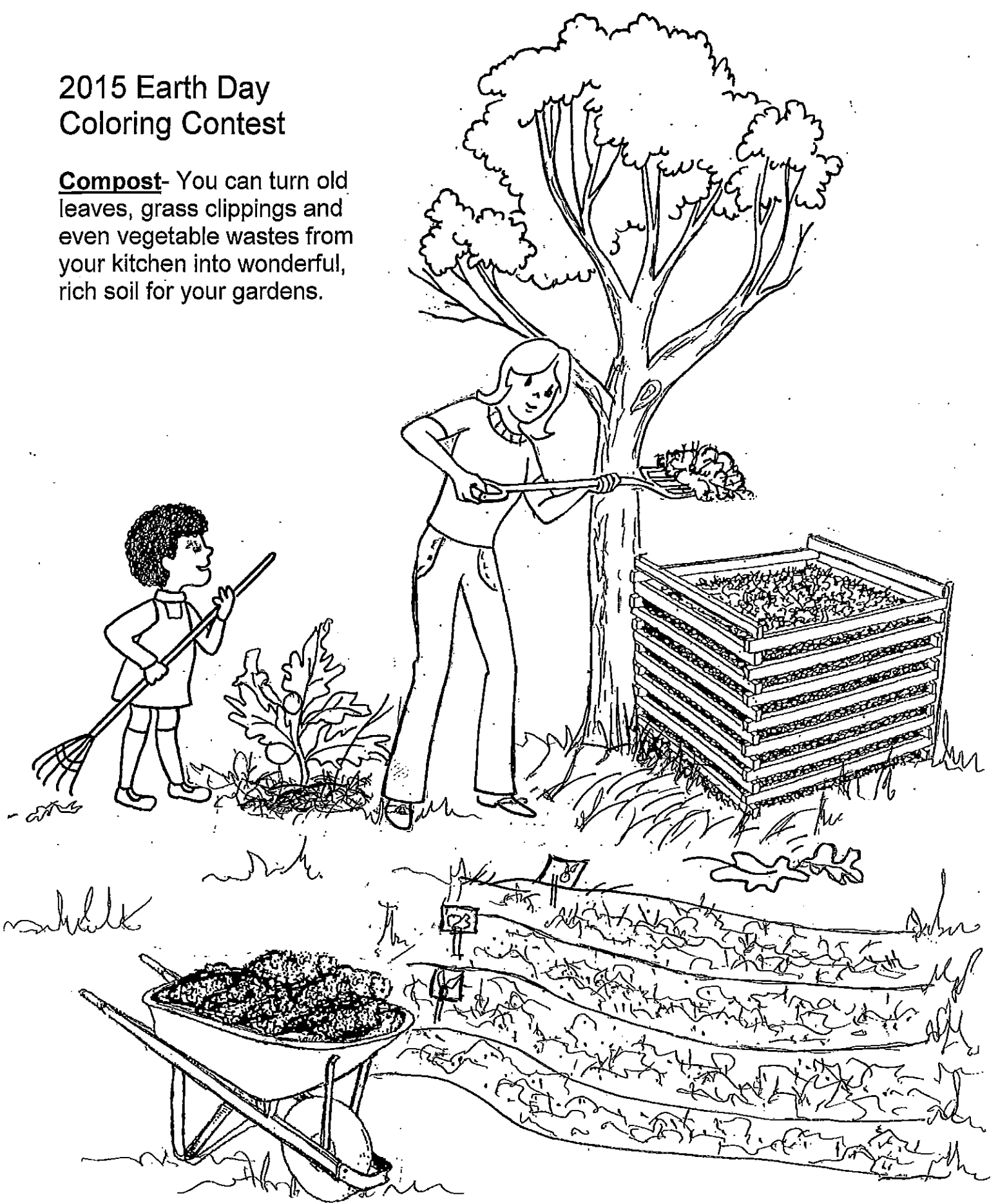


2015 Earth Day Coloring Contest

Compost- You can turn old leaves, grass clippings and even vegetable wastes from your kitchen into wonderful, rich soil for your gardens.

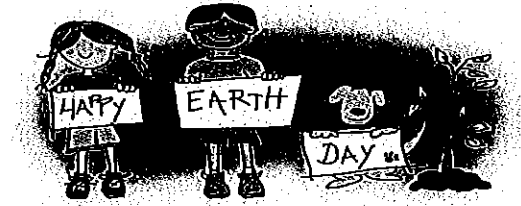


.....
Name _____ School _____ Teacher _____
Home Phone _____ School Phone _____

2015 Earth Day –

April 18th (Saturday)- 10- 4:00

Buffalo Creek Retreat – Encourage your students to attend and participate.



Earth Day Coloring Contest

Mail entries by March 20 to :

Medina Co. Soil & Water Conservation District 6090 Wedgewood Rd. Medina, Ohio 44256

Contest Rules:

1. Students must use **crayons or colored pencils only**.
2. Students must **INDEPENDENTLY** color their entry.
3. Entries must be received by **March 20- Friday**
4. Judging will be on **March 23**.
5. An entry form must be filled out and attached to the coloring contest entry.
6. Winning entries will be displayed at the Earth Day event and afterwards, at the Medina County Library's main branch at the corner of Medina Square.
7. Prizes will be **awarded at noon on Earth Day at Buffalo Creek Retreat**.
8. **First and Second prize awards** will be given in these five categories:
 - Kindergarten and First grades
 - Second grade
 - Third grade
 - Fourth grade
 - Fifth and Sixth grades
9. **Ten Honorable Mention awards** will also be given.



Looking For 2015 Conservation Teacher

The Medina County SWCD is looking for nominations for the 2015 Conservation Teacher of the Year. Nominations can come from principals, fellow teachers, or students. Write down the teacher's name, school, and a short qualifying statement about this teacher and mail to: Medina County SWCD, 6090 Wedgewood Rd, Medina, OH 44256.

Focus on the Land...

June- 2016

Teachers can learn and earn credit while traveling to New Zealand and Australia. Optional graduate credit from Ashland University- create an independent project for your teaching curriculum. Call Beth Schnabel for more information. 330-723-1035



A Decomposition Experiment

Nature recycles mineral nutrients time and again. Many different kinds of organisms help to break down food waste into its nutrient minerals. These simple substances can be used as building blocks to make new plants and animals. This process of breaking down organic material into simpler substances is called *decomposition*. Microorganisms such as bacteria (too small to be seen without a microscope), molds (as seen on bread), and other fungi (such as mushrooms) are common decomposers.

A Decomposition Experiment

Purpose

In this activity you will observe decomposition of plant waste and compare six different variations. There is a good chance that molds will appear on the waste during the decomposition process.

Materials

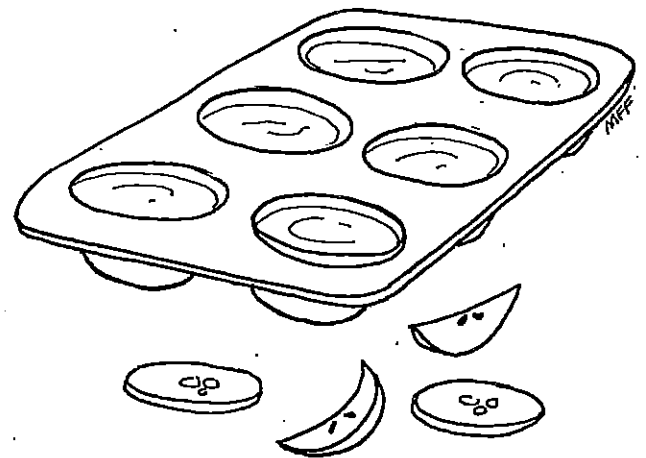
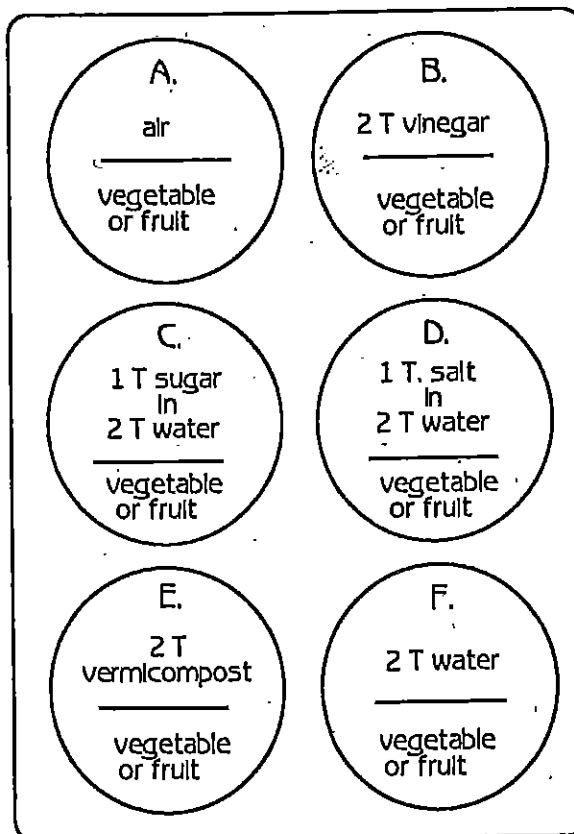
- muffin pan
- measuring spoon
- paring knife
- water
- vinegar
- sugar
- soil from an outside garden (let it thaw inside)
- slices of fruit or vegetables

Directions

1. Prepare a muffin pan with the following solution and materials.
2. Slice the food into six pieces of equal size.
3. Place one slice into each cup of the muffin pan.
4. Set the muffin pan aside where you will not knock it over and observe it for two weeks.
5. Record your observations once a week.
6. At the end of two weeks, compare the six variations with these questions:

Key

T = Tablespoon
t = teaspoon



Questions

- Describe the mold in the food cup(s).
(Hint: What is the color, texture, shape, and size of the mold?)
- Describe which foods did not decompose.
- Compare and describe the changes you saw in all the food cups.

Bonus Activity List some foods that are preserved by salt, vinegar, or sugar.