

Let's **COMPOST!**



Save Organic Scraps



The Save Organic Scraps workbook was created in partnership with Clark County Solid Waste, Waste Connections, artist Addie Boswell (www.addiekay.com) and the 2006-2007 4th grade classes of Ms. Ekstran and Mrs. Swift from Illahee Elementary School in Evergreen Public Schools.



Hey kids, do you know where your food goes when it leaves the cafeteria? Did you know that what you call trash i call dinner? it's true, i really do! Your leftovers not only feed me, they put food and nutrition into the soil for growing your next meal.

That's pretty cool, right? We're talking about recycling for the 21st century and you do it in your cafeteria every day. You already know the importance of the 3 R's: Reduce, Reuse and Recycle. I'm talking about the NEW R: **ROT! Join my friends Larry and Connie to find out what **ROT** is all about.**

What are these new bins for Connie?

Don't you remember? They're for SOS, the Save Organic Scraps composting program!



Milk cartons
ONLY

Plastic and foil
for landfills

Food and paper
scraps to compost

Instead of mixing everything together in one big can



We recycle our milk cartons here



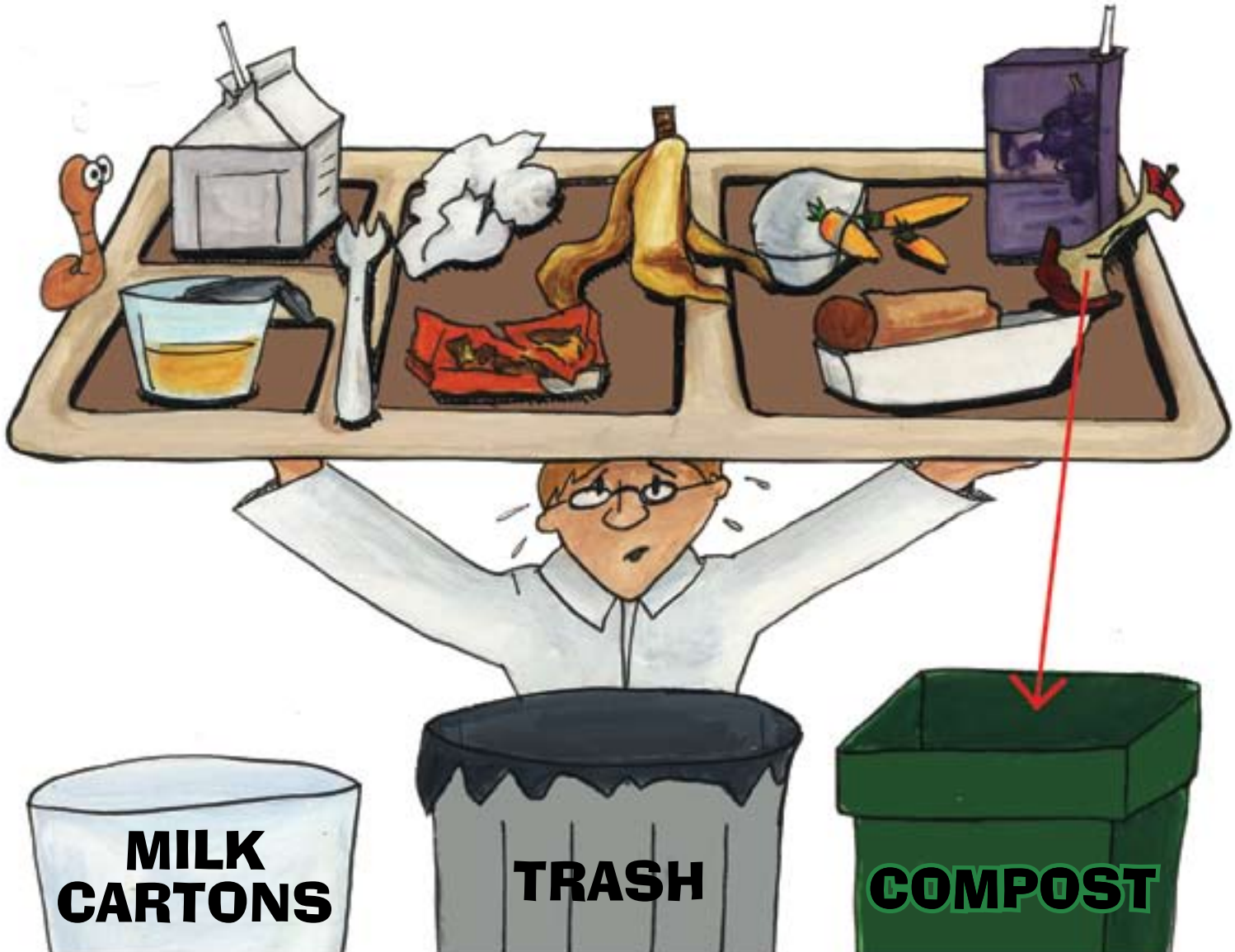
We put all our plastic, foil and styrofoam here



And our leftover food and paper scraps go in the green bin



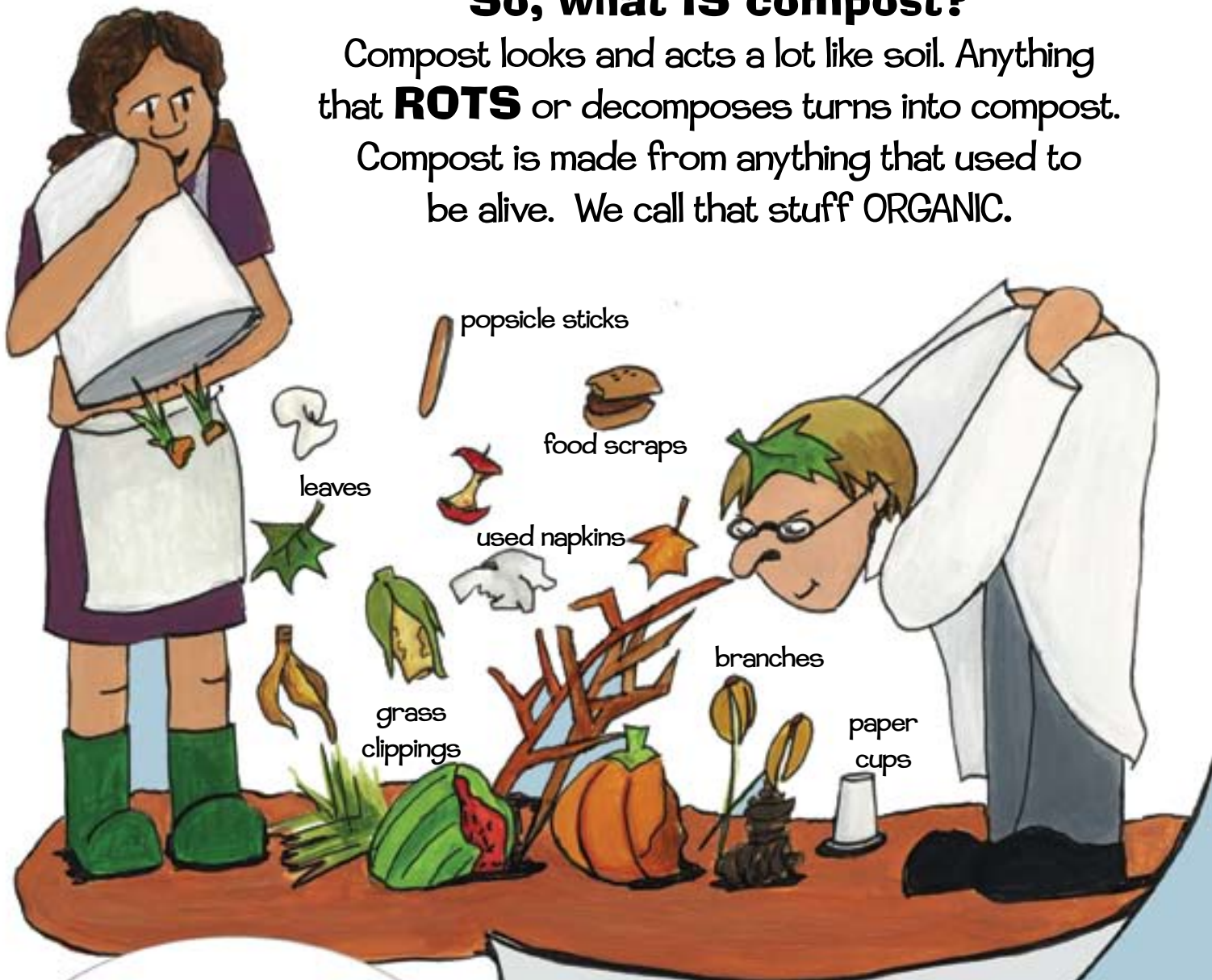
HELP! Larry must put the **14 items** on his tray in the right place. Draw a line from each item into the correct bin.



So, what IS compost?

Compost looks and acts a lot like soil. Anything that **ROTS** or decomposes turns into compost.

Compost is made from anything that used to be alive. We call that stuff **ORGANIC**.



Do you know how long it takes your lunch leftovers to turn into compost?

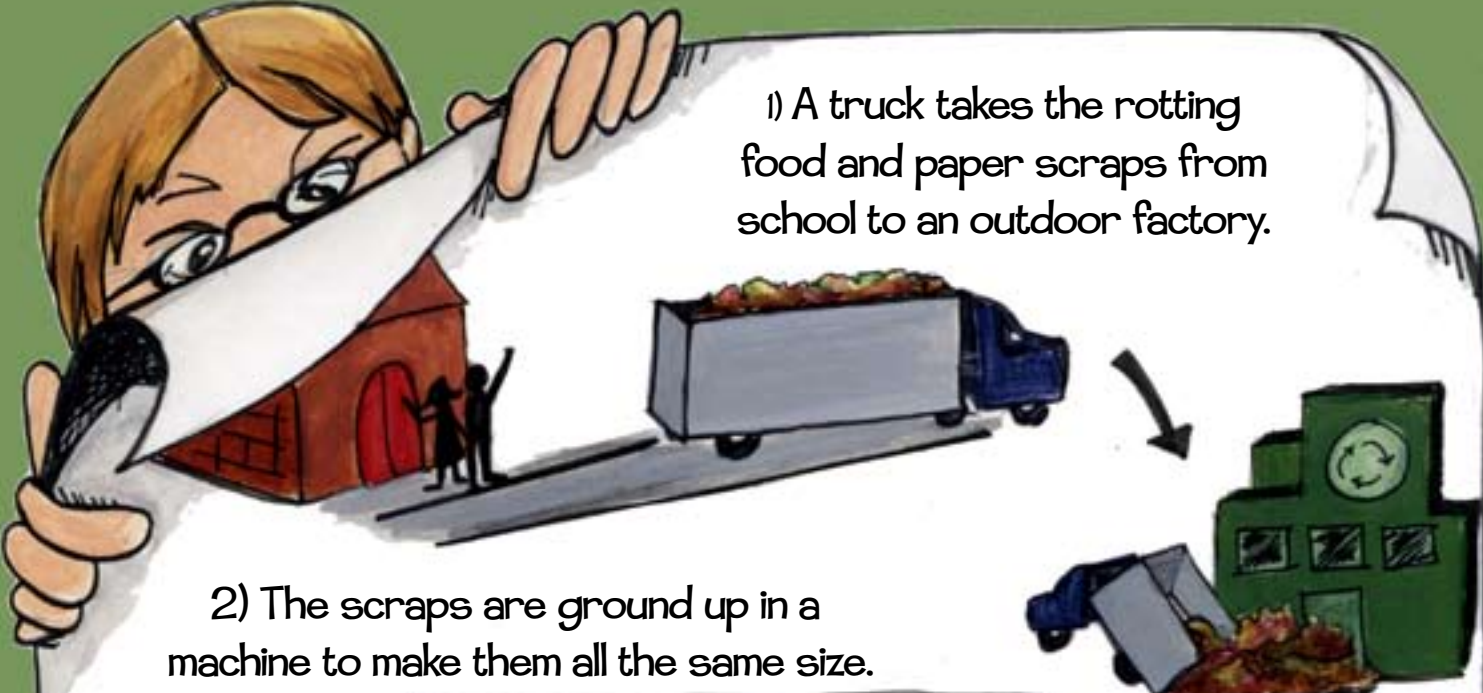
- a) One week
- b) Three months
- c) One year



We put our organic material in the green bin and POOF, it turns into compost?


No, no it's not MAGIC! Here's what happens...






1) A truck takes the rotting food and paper scraps from school to an outdoor factory.

2) The scraps are ground up in a machine to make them all the same size.



3) The rotting material is put in long rows. Air and water help it heat up and rot faster.



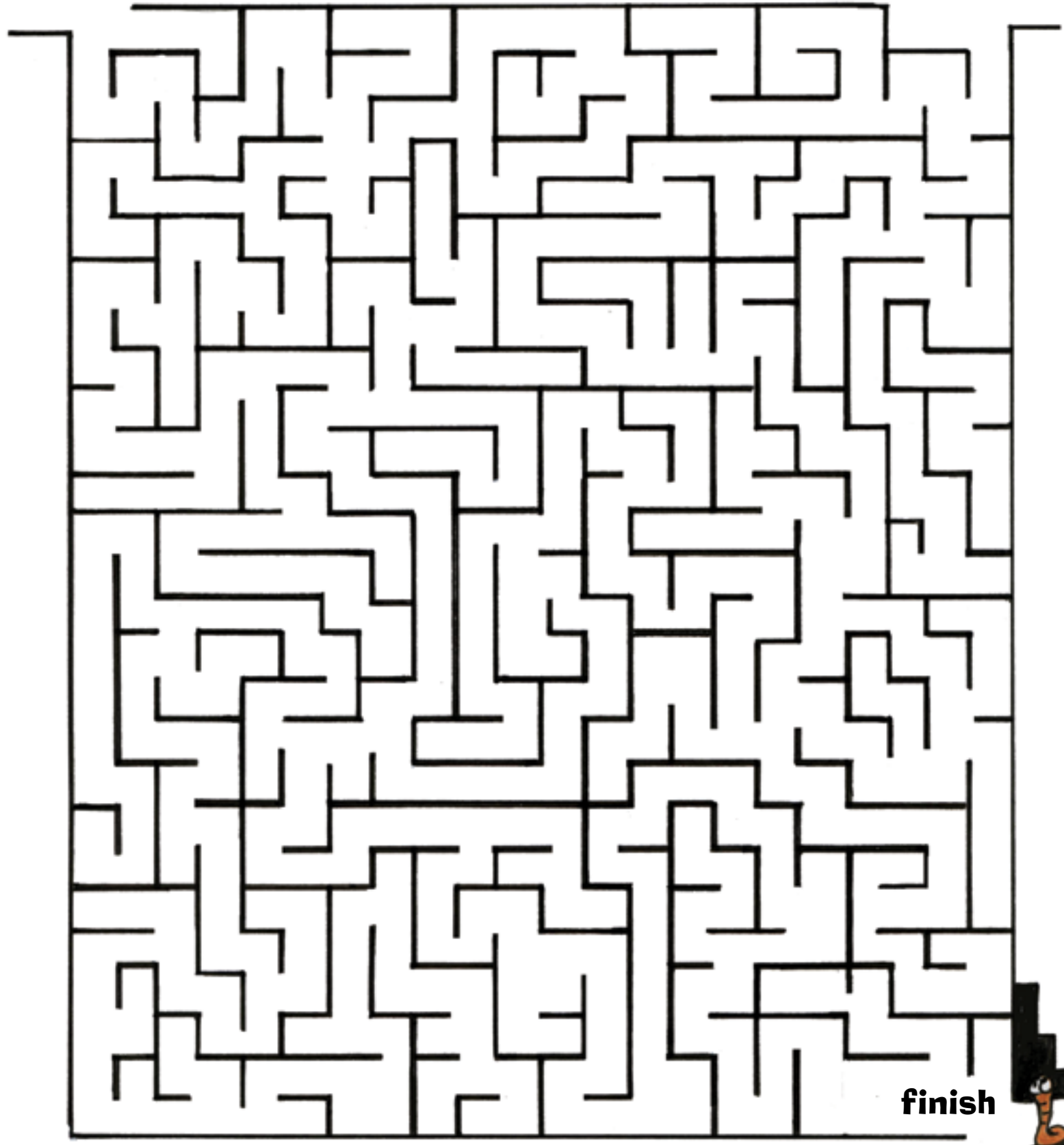
That's three months!

4) In **90 days** your leftover food and paper scraps have decomposed and turned into compost! It is packaged and sent to stores, farms and gardens to be used just like soil.





Will **Connie** or **Larry** get to the **Compost Factory** first?



finish

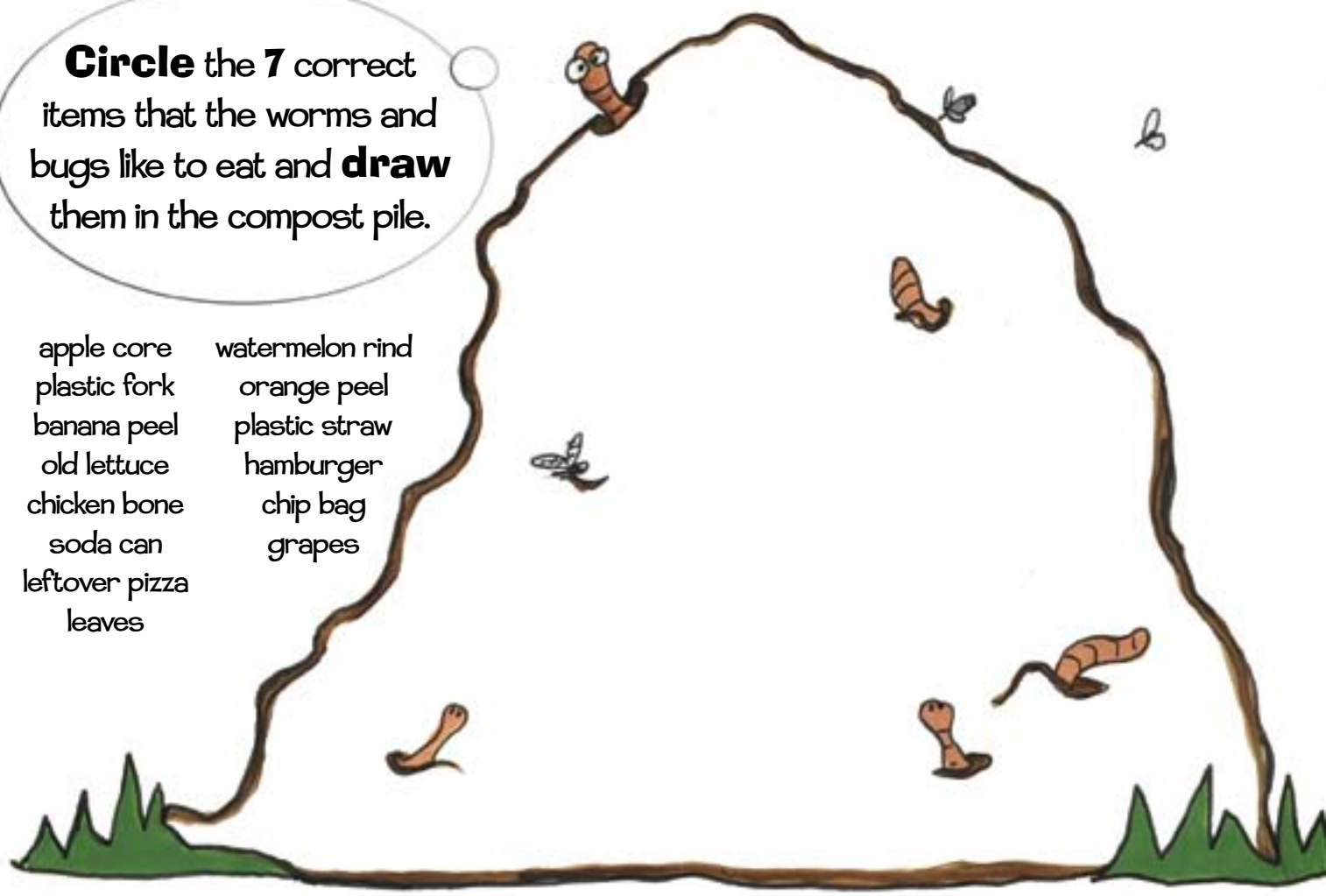




Instead of going to a factory you can make compost in your backyard. Simply mix your fruit and veggie scraps with the leaves and grass from your yard. Put all this in a pile and after a few months it will begin to **ROT**. Worms and bugs come along to help it break down, decompose, and turn into compost. The compost can be used like soil, the same way your scraps from school can be used.

Circle the **7** correct items that the worms and bugs like to eat and **draw** them in the compost pile.

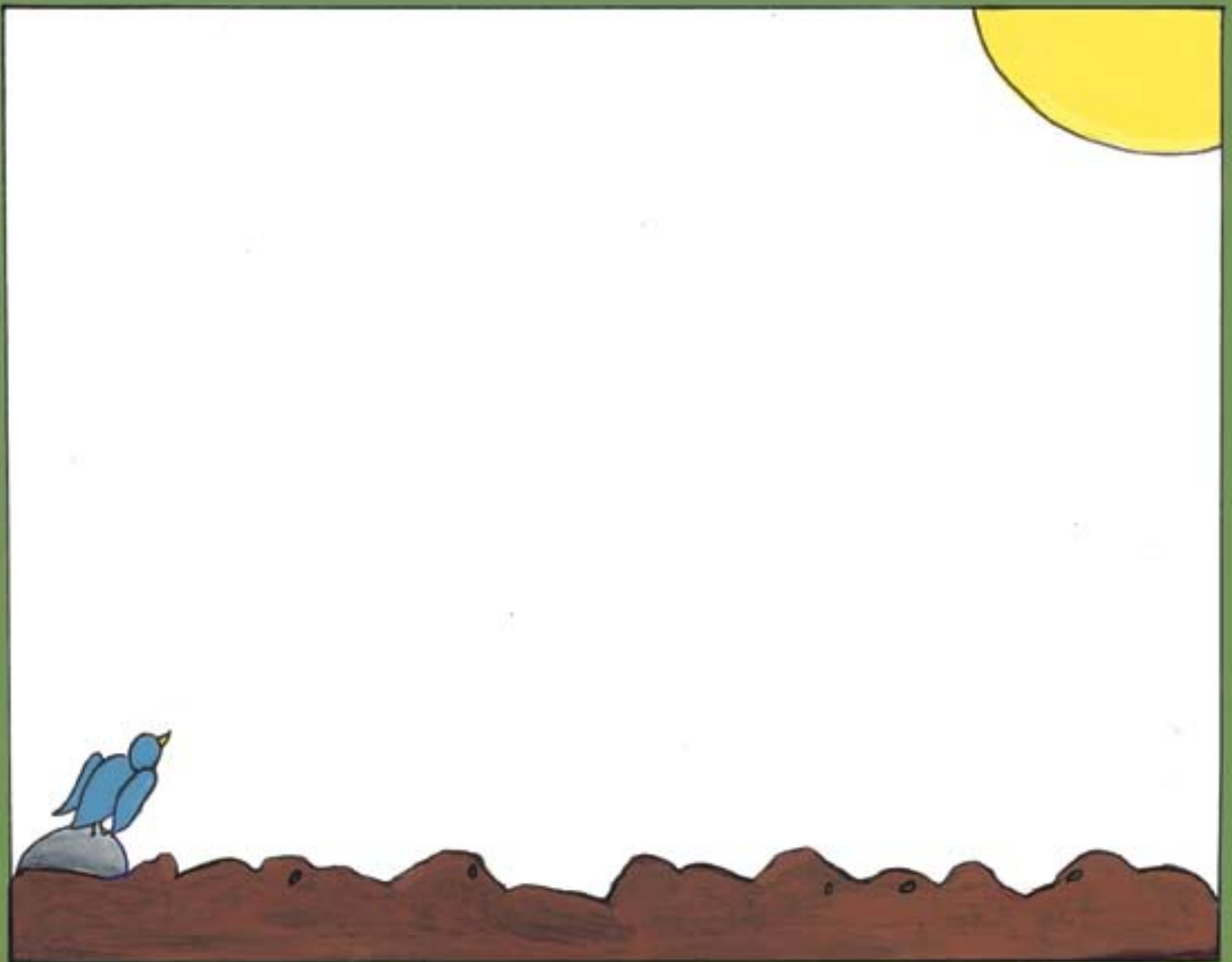
- | | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| apple core | watermelon rind |
| plastic fork | orange peel |
| banana peel | plastic straw |
| old lettuce | hamburger |
| chicken bone | chip bag |
| soda can | grapes |
| leftover pizza | |
| leaves | |



But why is compost better than regular old dirt?

Compost is a natural fertilizer and gives your plants an added boost of nutrients. This makes plants grow bigger and stronger. Plus compost acts like a sponge, soaking up more water than dirt, so you don't have to water as much.

Help Connie and Larry plant this garden by **drawing** your favorite flowers and vegetables in the compost.



COMPOST PREVENTS POLLUTION

When it rains, water washes over hard dirt and pavement bringing trash, oil and chemicals into the river.



WITHOUT COMPOST

When compost is mixed into the soil, it allows the ground to absorb more water. Compost, a natural fertilizer, contains nutrients and vitamins, and does not pollute the water. Using compost prevents pollution from harming salmon and other wildlife.



WITH COMPOST



REDUCE means to use **less** of something.

Grooaannn...
I reduce my waste by eating all my lunch.



How would **you...**
use **less** paper in your classroom?

use **less** water?

What else can you use **less** of?

REUSE means to use something again.

I turn jars and cans into flower vases!



Look in your garbage can. What can you reuse?
Draw or write what you would do.

- List 10 things you recycle:
- homework
 - soda cans
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____
 - _____



Don't forget to **RECYCLE!**

Look what happens when you recycle your homework!



Time for more homework!

Old homework is put in the recycling bin with other paper and cardboard.



Bins are taken to a recycling plant and the paper is sorted.



Paper is washed of ink and glue and water is added to make SLURRY.



The clean slurry is rolled out and dried.



New paper is cut and packaged to sell.





Now that you know all about COMPOST, can you find these hidden words?

Up, down, diagonal, across and backwards!



B M B F Y N O L D X L A E C U D E R W Z
R P E R I R E E M W K X I W P L R B I A
T U R T G G C D Z J R P B R L V H B L B
F A M A H O X O R X A O U I E P A S L N
L I N S M A I C H A F Y F Q I T P Q I H
L I G P Y U N A O Q G D U H J G E B E K
C K O A C Z L E E N N K F M D P X F E E
J S B R L I R I H A N Q J P P U Z S A N
E G Y C Z E Q N L Q T I B G U H J R E C
R Q W S U C B T U R H S E T B D B Z V O
J I P S F H K H Q E S R O M P K I R R Y
V U E G I M G N T C A V G I W E M O E A
C O M P O S T K C Y R V Z L L J W Y S P
N O I T U L L O P C T Z O S A L M O N X
I Z C U E L S I V L E O E B U A R B O O
U N D I R T Y M G E H W X D S T O A C A
U K I H M X K R R C U Z M R D E T N W X
C H E I X X Q N S O B M C V J D O J H E
L W I N I N E E R G W V X K R T L L F I
Q A G W Z N K Q D B D T I G S A P E S P

rot
organic
compost
conserve
decompose
dirt

pollution
recycle
reduce
reuse
landfill
methane

garden
worms
trash
soil
scraps
school

green
cafeteria
salmon
connie
willie
larry



GLOSSARY

Climate: The general weather conditions of a region (It is generally hot and humid in Florida in the summer, and generally rainy in the winter in Washington.)

Composting: Nature's way of recycling food scraps and yard trimmings into a type of soil.

Conserve: To use less of.

Decompose: To break down.

Dirt: A filthy or soiling substance, such as mud or dust. It may look like soil, but dirt has no life in it.

Greenhouse Gases: Any of the atmospheric gases that contribute to the greenhouse effect. Some greenhouse gases occur naturally in the atmosphere, while others result from human activities such as burning fossil fuels like coal.

Home composting: A backyard pile of food scraps (only fruits and veggies) mixed with yard waste. It all decomposes into a soil-like material.

Landfill: An area of land where trash and garbage is buried.

Methane Gas: An odorless, colorless, flammable gas. Methane is a type of greenhouse gas.

Organic: Anything that is alive or was once alive. For example, anything that comes from trees, plants, or animals.

Pollution: Introduction of substances (like chemicals) into the environment which can damage human health, living resources and ecosystems.

Recycle: Using an object to create a new product by physically changing its original form.

Reduce: To prevent waste by consuming less and throwing away less.

Reuse: Using an object or material again, either for its original purpose or for a similar purpose, without significantly changing its form.

Rot: Decomposition of anything organic.

SOS: Save Organic Scraps food waste composting program. Any leftover food and paper products from breakfast and lunch are collected and taken to a facility where they are turned into compost!

School Composting: When ALL of your food and paper scraps from the cafeteria are transported to a factory where they decompose and turn into compost.

Scraps: Leftover food from breakfast or lunch.

Soil: The top layer of the earth's surface consisting of rock and mineral particles mixed with organic matter. Soil contains living organisms, nutrients, and vitamins.

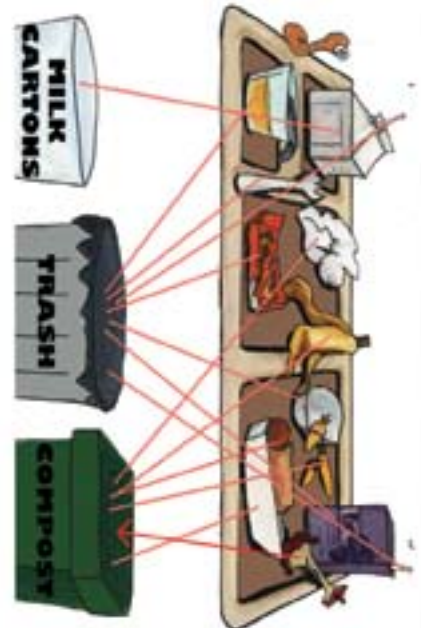
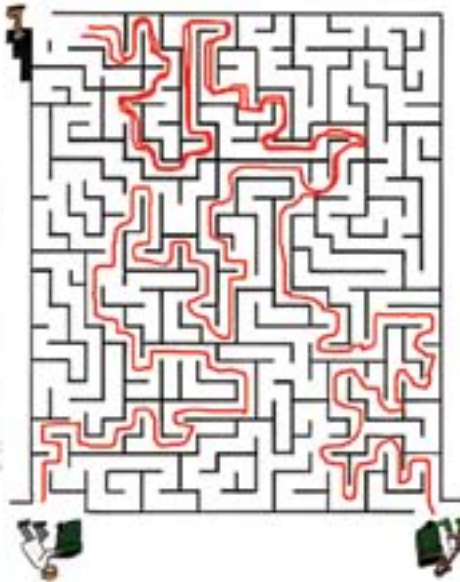
THANKS!



For more information, check the SOS website at www.recyclxtreme.com



Flip over for the ANSWER KEY!



ANSWER KEY

Page 6: The 7 correct items to put in your compost pile are: apple core, watermelon rind, banana peel, old lettuce, leaves, orange peel, and grapes.

Page 8: TRASH or TREASURE? Did you circle EVERY item in the landfill? Come and Larry agree that everything should have been recycled or reused!