

RECYCLING EDUCATION

for young children



Provided by Blue Earth County Environmental Services



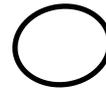
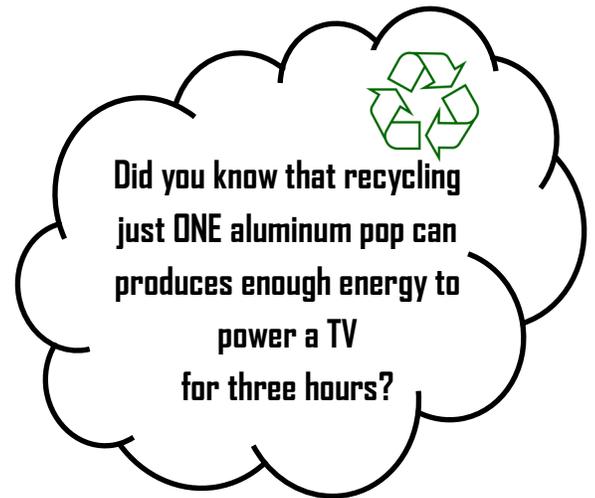
WHY RECYCLE??

Here are a few good reasons to recycle:

- Recycling saves valuable landfill space
- Recycling reduces problems associated with trash and litter
- Recycling conserves natural resources
- Recycling saves energy
- Recycling can reduce pollution
- Creates Jobs

Recycling Facts:

- Americans throw away enough plastic bottles each year to circle the Earth four times
- Recycling one ton of paper saves seventeen trees
- Five recycled bottles make enough to stuff a ski jacket
- Every hour we throw away 2.5 million plastic bottles (22 billion/year)



COMMON RECYCLABLE ITEMS

RECYCLE THESE



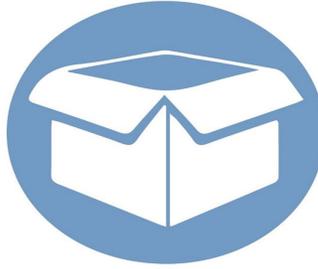
**Mixed Paper,
Newspaper & Magazines**



**Kitchen, Laundry, Bath;
Bottles and Containers**
empty & replace cap



Aluminum & Steel Cans
empty and rinse



Flattened Cardboard
flatten all boxes



Bottles & Jars
empty and rinse

COMMON COMPOSTABLE ITEMS

YES



NO

- ✓ bread, pasta, rice, grains
- ✓ coffee grounds & filters
- ✓ compostable serveware
- ✓ dairy products
- ✓ eggshells, seashells & bones
- ✓ fats, oils, greases
- ✓ fruit & veggie scraps
- ✓ meat & fish scraps
- ✓ paper napkins & wooden stirrers
- ✓ tea bags

- ✗ baby & hand wipes
- ✗ cat litter
- ✗ diapers
- ✗ glass
- ✗ medicines
- ✗ pet waste
- ✗ polystyrene/styrofoam
- ✗ rubber bands
- ✗ yard waste

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Recycling or Garbage?

Create flashcards featuring photos of recyclable materials and non-recyclable items. Show the flashcards one at a time to your children and have them work together to decide whether that item should go in the recycling bin or trash can. Explain why or why not each item can be recycled.

Promote Recycling

Have children work on a poster that promotes the ideas of recycling, reducing waste, and re-using items. Encourage the use of recycled materials in the creation of the poster, and display it in your childcare place for all to see.

Recycle Toss

Children will use clean recycled objects for this recycle toss game. Collect, or ask parents for clean recyclables, such as milk jugs and can with edges filed to dull points. The objects will be thrown, so avoid using glass. Find a 'recycle bin'. Place the bin against a wall and create a throw line. Children will stand at the throw line and try to get as many items into the bin as possible. This game can be played as a race against two teams or as a contest for individuals.

How Can We Help the Earth?

Take a sheet of old newspaper, pin or tape onto the wall. Create a 'brainstorm cloud' titled "*How Can We Help the Earth?*" and ask children to brainstorm ideas of ways they believe they can help the earth. Write down their ideas with marker, crayon, or other writing utensil.





Recycling Song

** Sing to "Row Row Row Your Boat"*

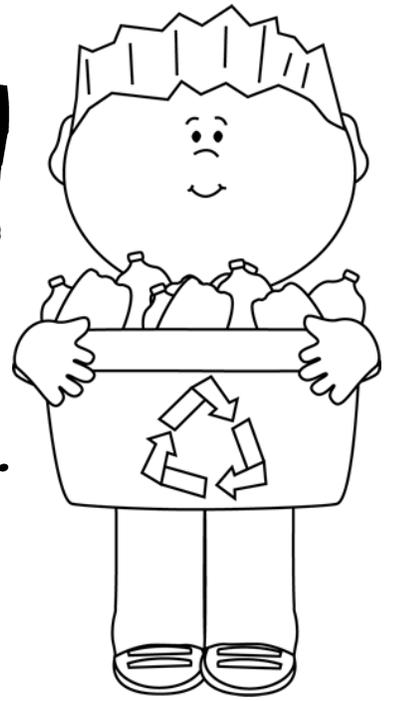
*Save save save your papers,
Throw them in the bin.
We can help to save the Earth
If we all pitch in.*

*Save save save your bottles,
Throw them in the bin.
We can help to save the Earth
If we all pitch in.*

*Save save save your cans,
Throw them in the bin.
We can help to save the Earth
If we all pitch in.*

*Save save save your plastics,
Throw them in the bin.
We can help to save the Earth
If we all pitch in.*

I can help the EARTH!



Directions: Fill out the chart.

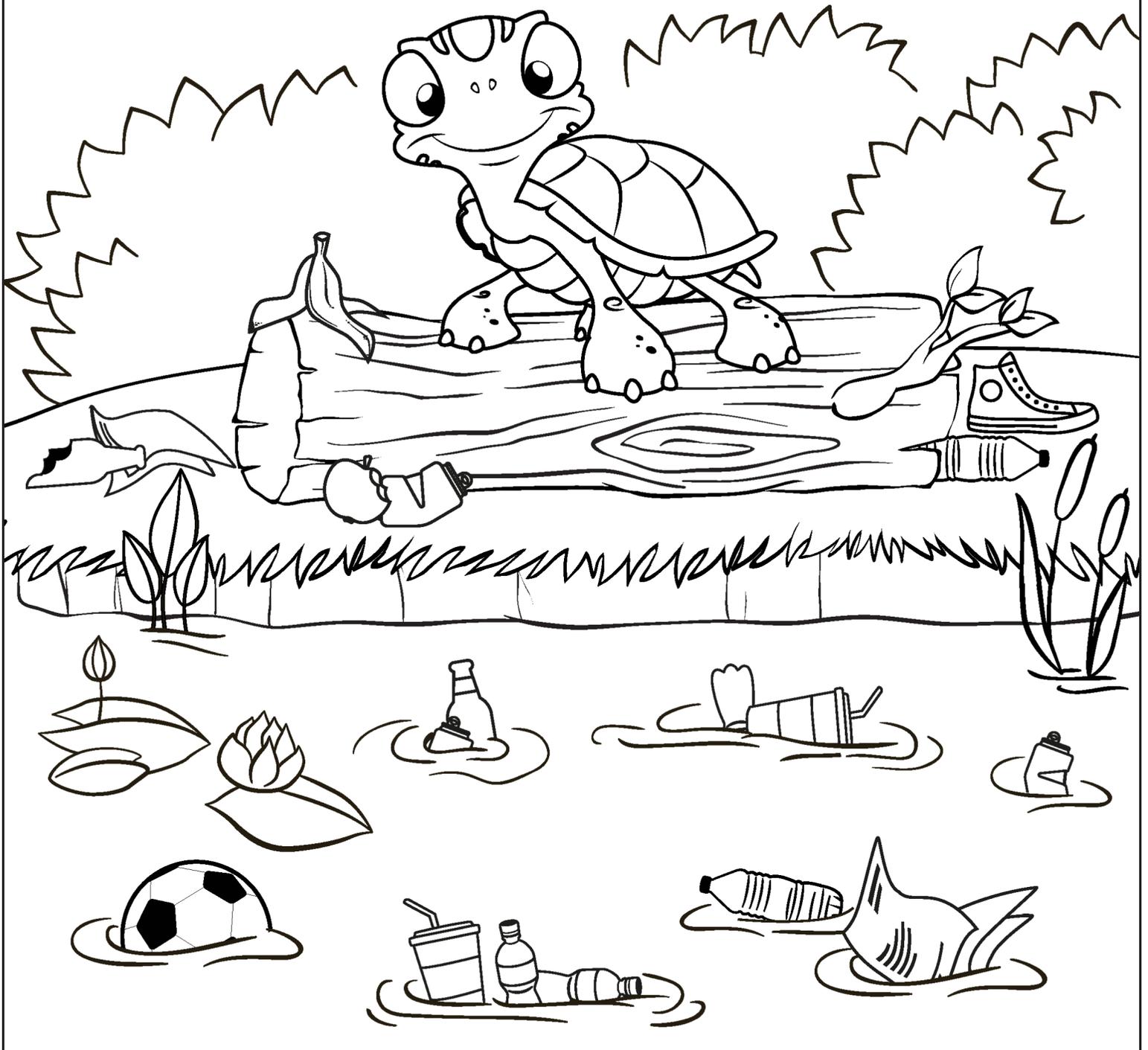
If you have more ideas, write them on the back.

3 items I can recycle

2 items I can reuse

1 way I can reduce

Did you know litter that goes into storm drains ends up in our lakes and rivers? My friends and I can't live in dirty water. It's unsafe and can hurt us.



SORTING TRASH

Cut the pictures at the bottom and paste them in the right category.

RECYCLE

GARBAGE

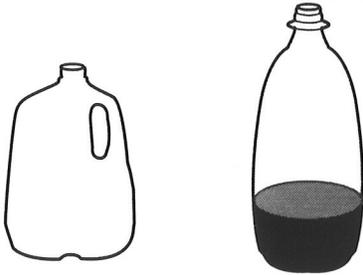


What can be recycled? Cut and match.



Mixed Glass



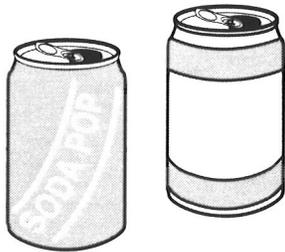
Plastic PETE



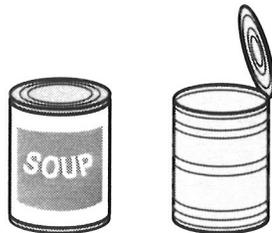
Plastic HDPE



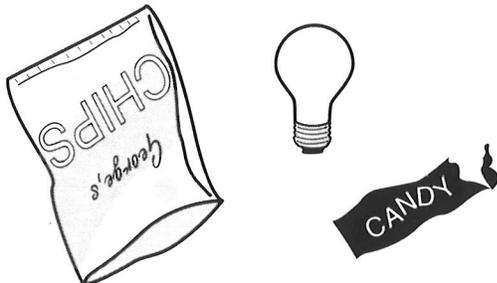
Newspaper



Aluminum Cans



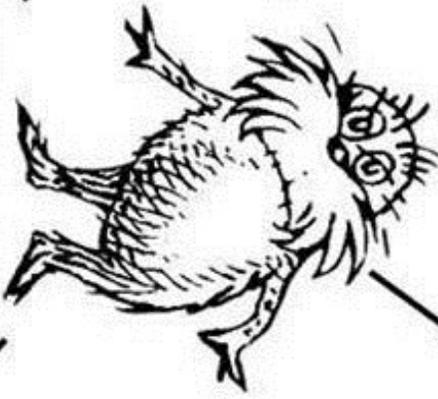
Tin Cans



TRASH



WAYS TO



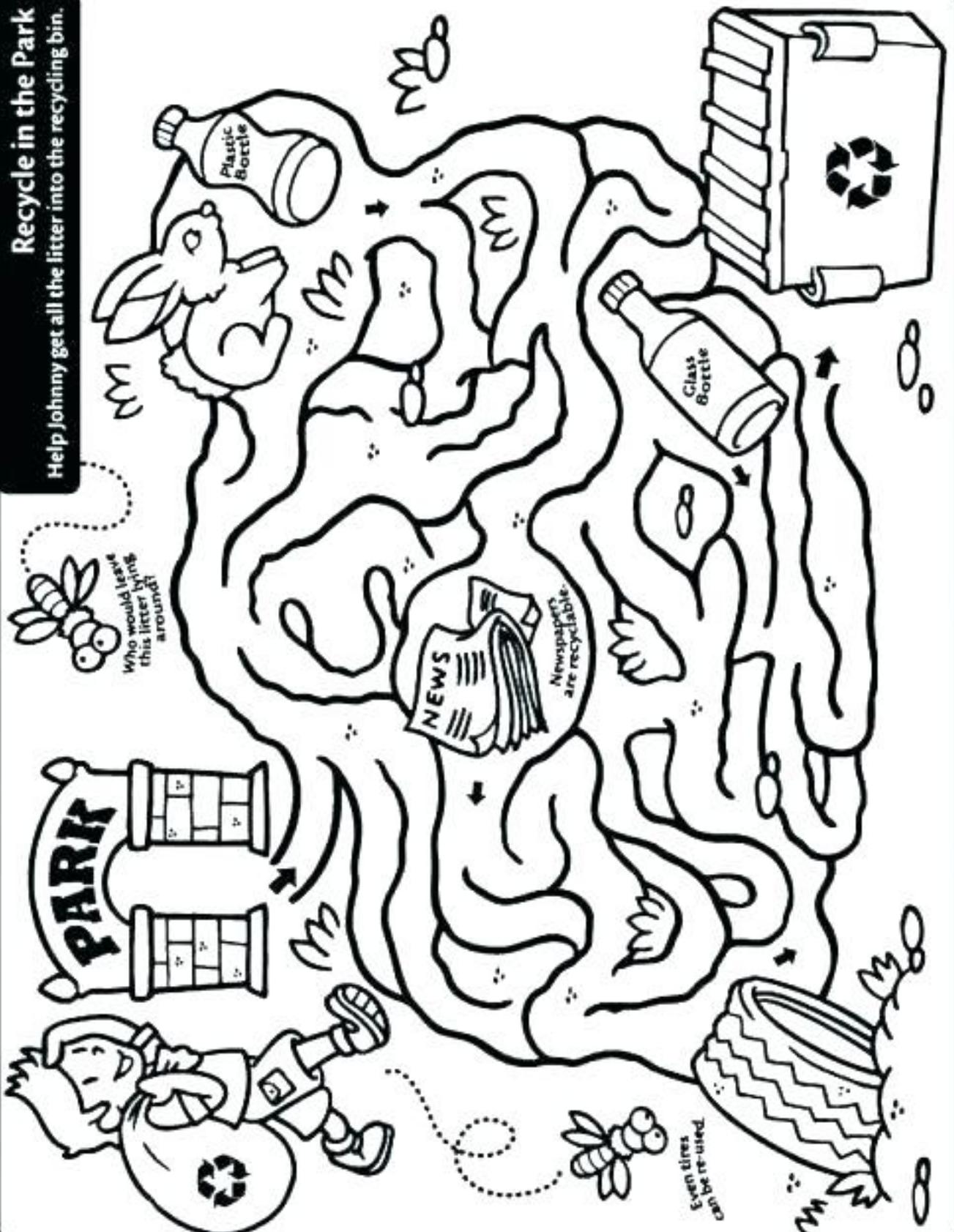
**REDUCE
TRASH**

Recycle in the Park

Help Johnny get all the litter into the recycling bin.

Who would leave
this litter lying
around!

Even trees
can be re-used.



NEWS
Newspapers
are recyclable.

Plastic
Bottle

Glass
Bottle

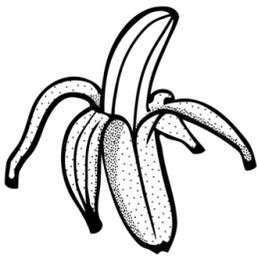
PARK

Trace the word.

COMPOST

Compost is a pile of food scraps and yard waste that turns into a kind of rich soil that will help plants grow.

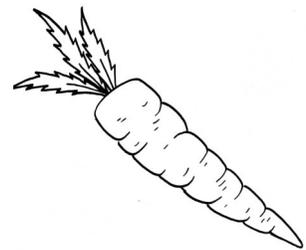
Color in fruits and vegetables that can be composted.



BANANA



TRASH



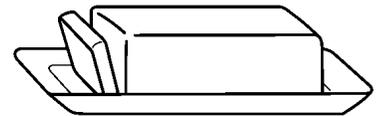
CARROT



ICE CREAM CONE



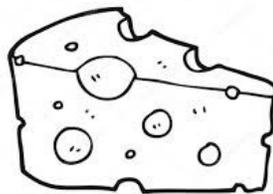
PUMPKIN



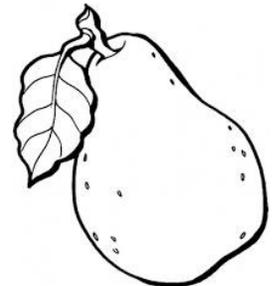
BUTTER



BROCCOLI



CHEESE



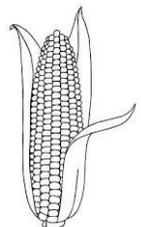
PEAR



GRAPE

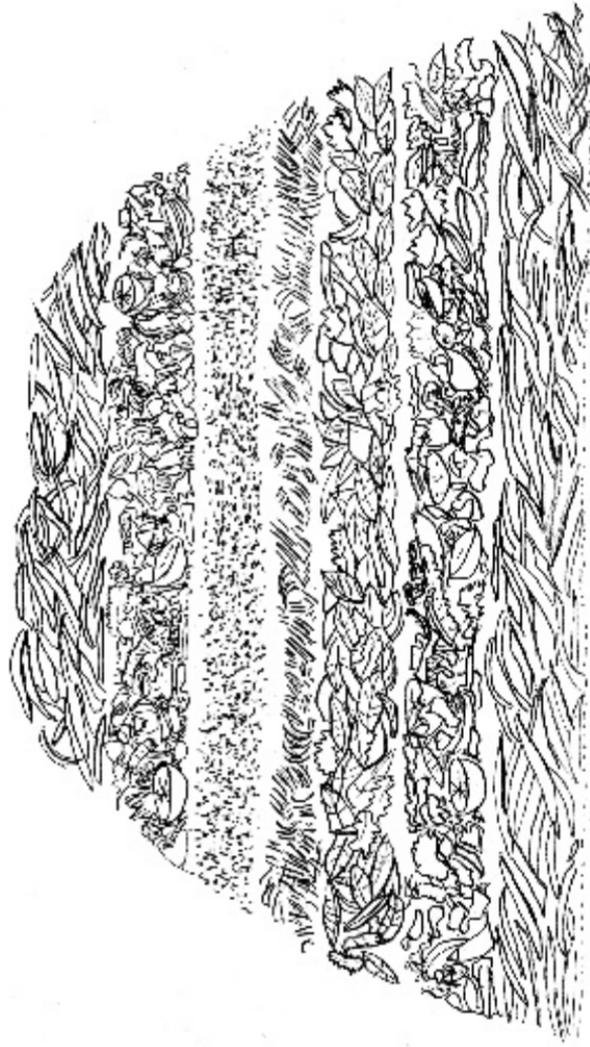


STEAK



CORN

COMPOST



COLOR THE LAYERS OF COMPOST. WHAT THINGS COULD YOU ADD TO THE PILE?