

FACILITATOR GUIDE: Evaluating or Refining Compost Practices

GRADE: 6th-8th

CONCEPTS & SKILLS:

Earth & Human Activity

- **HS-ESS3-4** Evaluate or refine a technological solution that reduces impacts of human activities on natural systems.

MATERIALS & RESOURCES:

- *Cornell Composting in Schools* website:
<http://compost.css.cornell.edu/schools.html>
- *Cornell Composting video*: <http://hdl.handle.net/1813/11656>

PRESENTATION:

What are the best ways to reduce your impact on Earth? In this activity, we take a look at composting. Are there “best practices”? Experiments can help us figure out what works and why.

DIRECTIONS:

1. Look at the Cornell Composting in Schools website. Watch video. Depending on time available, the group may want to work through the entire Cornell program or under limited time constraints, choose a specific aspect of composting to evaluate. Some questions to help start the discussion:
 - Does composting reduce human impact on Earth’s natural systems? Are there ways in which composting can increase our impact?
 - Are there areas in which humans can improve composting practices? If so, identify one or more to evaluate or refine.
 - Are there ideas or beliefs about composting that could use more rigorous evaluation and perhaps refinement?
2. How could the evaluation/refinement in the community as a service project?
3. Students should keep a journal of the process, which includes, but is not limited to: what they learned, what they would change, how they might use this experience in future.

TIME:

varies with choice of activity