







## Take Action

### NATURE RECYCLES

#### Don't Throw it Out!

Help reinforce students' understanding of the importance of taking action to reduce, reuse, recycle and rethink.

- *When we put food and garden scraps in the garbage, where do they end up? Do they ever break down? (In some cases, these items get sandwiched between inorganic materials in landfill sites and, as a result, cannot break down. This means that nutrients are being wasted, and organic matter is taking up valuable space in landfill sites.)*
- *Why is it better to buy reusable lunch containers than recyclable packages? (While it is better to recycle than to throw items into the garbage, making old plastic into new items still uses up a lot of energy and generates a lot of greenhouse gases. Furthermore, not everything we put into recycling actually gets recycled.)*
- *Are there some products marketed as "biodegradable" that actually won't break down or are not allowed in your compost bin? (Check with your municipality to find out).*
- *What would the world be like if no one reduced, reused or recycled?*
- *What can we do to reduce the amount of biodegradable matter we are putting into the garbage?*

#### Find out how you can:

- Start a compost in the classroom with these [tips](#) from EcoSchools Canada.
- Grow fresh food from leftover produce with these simple [instructions](#).

#### More to Explore

- Look for these theme-related books:
  - *Black Gold* by Sara Cassidy and Helen Flook (Orca Book Publishers, 2017)
  - *Charlie's Dirt Day* by Andrew Larsen and Jacqueline Hudon-Verrelli (Fitzhenry & Whiteside, 2015)
  - *Design Like Nature: Biomimicry for a Healthy Planet* by Megan Clendenan & Kim Ryall Woolcock (Orca Book Publishers, 2021)
  - *Frankenstink! Garbage Gone Bad* by Ron Lightburn (Tundra Books, 2015)
  - *A Log's Life* by Wendy Pfeffer and Robin Brickman (Simon and Schuster, 1997)
  - *Trash Revolution: Breaking the Waste Cycle* by Erica Fyvie and Bill Slavin (Kids Can Press 2018)
  - *Trash Talk: Moving Toward a Zero-Waste World* by Michelle Mulder (Orca Book Publishers, 2015)
  - [ClearWater Kids Booklist](#) for more great Canadian books on nature and science.
- Visit [Science North](#) for more hands-on, curriculum-linked learning resources and lesson plans.