

Common Vision Tree Composting and Mulching Alignment To EEI 4.2.c

EEI 4.2.c Lesson Summaries	Orchard Content Enhancements	EEI Activity Connection, Lesson Components, and Implementation Notes
 <p>Breaking It Down Read about composting and take part in a composting demonstration using bananas and yeast.</p>	<p>Tree Content: Compost is A) for the nutrients that the decomposition made available and B) the bacteria and fungi that will continue to break down the wood chips and Organic material to make it available for the trees.</p> <p>Water is necessary for decomposers to do their job and the soil food web (micro-organisms) to feed tree roots.</p>	<p>See #5 Activity Sheet Item.</p> <p>Copy Student Workbook and read California Connections Wonderful Compost.</p> <p>Copy Word Wall Cards for vocabulary activity.</p> <p>Can eliminate yeast activity.</p>
 <p>Decomposers and Scavengers Examine descriptions and photographs of decomposers and scavengers and compare characteristics.</p>	<p>Orchard adaptation: list decomposers and scavengers in the local school environment.</p>	<p>See #2 Activity Sheet Item.</p> <p>Copy Student Workbook and Information Cards to compare and contrast decomposers and scavengers.</p> <p>Copy Student Dictionary if doing vocabulary exercise.</p>
 <p>A Big Job for a Tiny Crew Observe and discuss evidence of decomposition and the role of decomposers in ecosystems.</p>	<p>Tree Content: Fruit trees developed in forests naturally and that humans bred/selected them for fruit size and taste. They function as any tree in a forest ecosystem. Composting leaf and woody matter made into food by bacteria and fungi is what nourishes them naturally.</p> <p>In forests, there is shade and litter layer that blocks grass. Naturally, trees are not used to this competition. In orchards grass will compete and thus mulching and weeding are necessary</p>	<p>See #1 Activity Sheet item.</p> <p>Copy Student Workbook Decomposition in the Forest reading and Visual Aids.</p> <p>Can reduce lesson time by eliminating Decomposition on the Coast student Workbook, pg 14.</p>

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 <p>Waste Not Interpret a diagram showing a wastewater management system and answer questions.</p>		<p>If short for time remove this lesson: Human Communities depend on recycling nutrients to manage their waste stream.</p>
 <p>Down on the Farm Investigate and describe why decomposers and humus are essential to agriculture.</p>	<p>Orchard adaptation: Use soil that will be used in the schoolyard for Testing Topsoils in Student Workbook, pg. 18-19.</p> <p>Tree Content: Understanding that the roots live where there is water: tap roots dive deep where water stays around into the summer; some tap roots where we water deeply; feeder roots remain shallow where the drippers drip the water (or at the drip line in orchards that have sprinklers); in the area of the berms in hand watered systems. Where the “feeder roots” are most concentrated is where the most effective "feeding" with compost and fertilizer takes place.</p> <p>Key piece here: Roots like trunks and branches expand in a pattern from the root crown just below the surface. Thus, it does not make sense to water and feed mature and maturing trees right at the trunk. Watering should happen underneath the whole canopy especially at the drip line. This then becomes the highest density of feeder roots and thus the best place to feed.</p>	<p>See #3 and #4 Activity Sheet items.</p> <p>Copy Student Workbooks, Information Cards, and Visual Aids.</p> <p>Note: Must do soil activity to build knowledge in identifying properties of soil.</p>

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 <p>The Benefits of Composting Discuss how composting can help communities manage waste.</p>		<p>Includes a writing assignment assessment that can be left out if time is short.</p>
<p>Alternative Unit Assessment Decomposition Poster</p>	<p>Adapt to fruit orchard</p>	