

# COMPOST TIMELINE

Composting is an excellent way to recycle your old fruit and vegetable waste but did you know:

- There are all sorts of other materials that can be composted too?
- Different materials take different amounts of time to break down?

See if you can put these materials into a Compost Timeline showing how long it takes for the different materials in your Composter to decay. Use the phrases on the bottom of the cards to help you line them up in the correct order. You may want to work with a friend or race against them!

Put the fastest material to decay at one end and the slowest at the other!

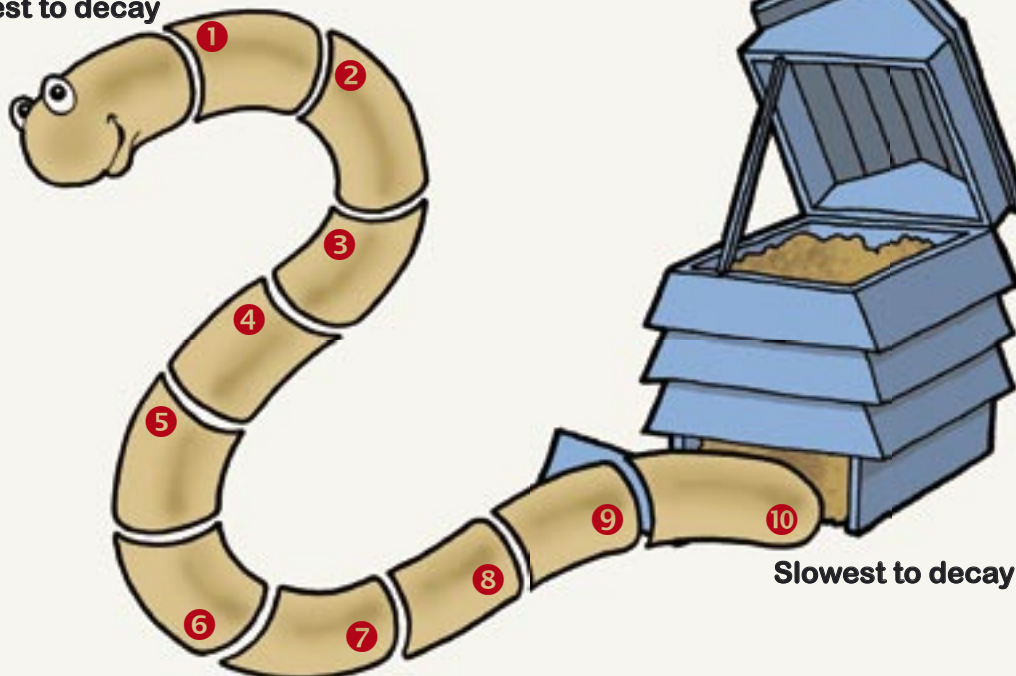
You could make a giant cardboard worm to put the materials on.

Your worm must have ten segments, a head and a tail. Write 'fastest to decay' on its head and 'slowest to decay' on its tail.

You will need:

- A set of compost timeline pictures per person
- A giant cardboard worm for each person (optional)
- Samples of the materials in the pictures (optional)

Fastest to decay



Answers:  
(Fastest) Grass > young weeds > potato peelings > tea bags > nettles > thisles >  
Autumn leaves > hedge > tree > branches > cardboard (slowest)



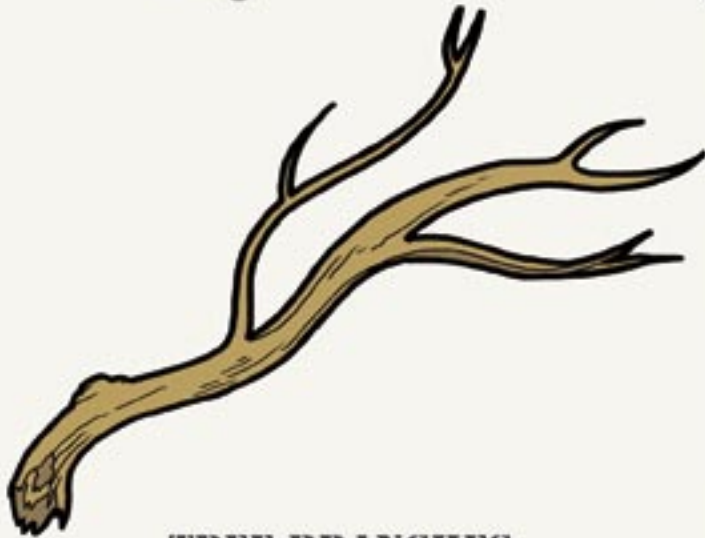
An Agency within the Department of the  
**Environment**  
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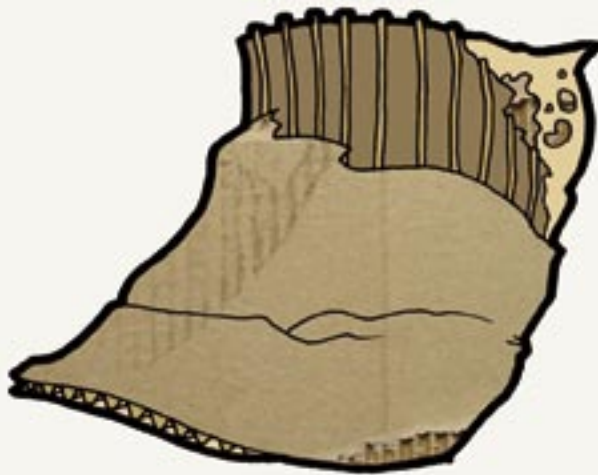


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### **TREE BRANCHES**

TREE BRANCHES ARE FASTER THAN  
CARDBOARD BUT SLOWER THAN  
AUTUMN LEAVES



### **CARDBOARD**

CARDBOARD IS THE SLOWEST



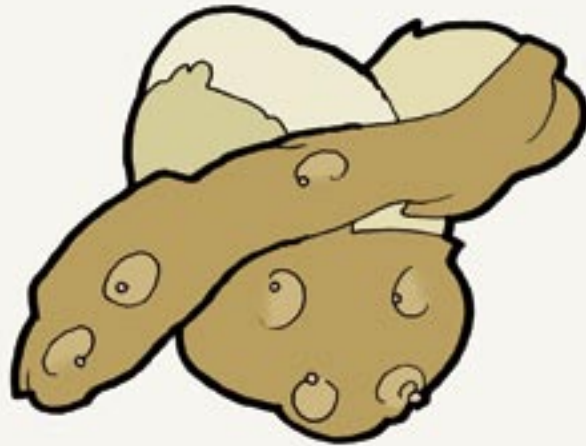
### **THISTLES**

THISTLES ARE SLOWER THAN  
BOTH NETTLES AND TEABAGS



### **TEA BAGS**

TEA BAGS ARE SLOWER THAN  
POTATO PEELINGS BUT FASTER THAN  
BOTH NETTLES AND THISTLES



### **POTATO PEELINGS**

POTATO PEELINGS ARE SLOWER THAN  
YOUNG WEEDS BUT FASTER THAN NETTLES



### **GRASS**

GRASS IS FASTER THAN  
POTATO PEELINGS



### **NETTLES**

NETTLES ARE FASTER THAN BOTH THISTLES  
AND AUTUMN LEAVES BUT NOT AS  
FAST AS POTATO PEELINGS



### **YOUNG WEEDS**

YOUNG WEEDS ARE SLOWER THAN GRASS  
BUT FASTER THAN TEABAGS



### **HEDGE CLIPPINGS**

HEDGE CLIPPINGS ARE NOT AS FAST AS  
AUTUMN LEAVES BUT FASTER THAN  
TREE BRANCHES



### **AUTUMN LEAVES**

AUTUMN LEAVES ARE FOUND FOURTH  
FROM BOTTOM AND ARE SLOWER  
THAN THISTLES