

# Effects of Decaying Materials on Health and Safety

Grade level: 4

## Objectives:

1. Students will be able to identify different types of decaying materials.
2. Students will be able to explain how decaying materials can affect one's health and safety.
3. Students will be able to describe ways to safely dispose of decaying materials.

## Materials:

A variety of materials that undergo decay (e.g., food scraps, leaves, wood, paper)

A worksheet for each student

Pencils

Gloves and masks (optional)

## Procedure:

### Introduction (5-10 minutes):

Begin by asking students if they have ever seen or smelled decaying materials.

Ask students to share their observations and experiences with decaying materials.

Explain to students that they will be learning about the effects of decaying materials on health and safety.

### Exploration (15-20 minutes):

Divide the class into small groups and provide each group with a variety of decaying materials.

Instruct students to examine each material and make observations about their appearance, smell, and texture.

Encourage students to wear gloves and masks for safety reasons.

Have each group share their findings with the class and describe how each material can affect one's health and safety.

### Discussion (10-15 minutes):

Bring the class back together to discuss their findings.

Ask students to identify different ways that decaying materials can affect one's health and safety (e.g., the spread of disease, attracting pests, causing respiratory problems).

Guide the discussion to highlight the importance of safely disposing of decaying materials (e.g., composting, recycling, throwing in the trash).

Summarize the key concepts and make sure students understand the potential dangers of decaying materials.

**Conclusion (5-10 minutes):**

Have students complete the worksheet by drawing and labeling different decaying materials and describing their potential effects on health and safety.

Review the key concepts covered in the lesson and ask if students have any questions.

Assign a follow-up activity (e.g., creating a compost bin or investigating local waste disposal practices) to reinforce the concepts learned.

**Assessment:**

Worksheet completion

Class participation in discussion and exploration

Follow-up activity (if assigned)

**Extension:**

Have students research the proper ways to dispose of different types of decaying materials (e.g., food waste, yard waste, household chemicals).

Invite a guest speaker (e.g., a local waste management expert or health professional) to talk to the class about the dangers of decaying materials and how to safely dispose of them.

Challenge students to create a public service announcement (PSA) about the importance of proper waste disposal and its impact on health and safety.