

Approach: Station
 Focus: Identifying biodegradable rubbish
 Resources: 14 small pictures, 1 large picture, sheet of stickers

Questions / instructions:

Compost is made when small soil bugs and worms feed on rubbish and break it down. Compost is put on gardens to help plants grow.

Stick the stickers here of things that go in the compost.

% response
2007 ('03)
year 4 year 8

For compost:		year 4	year 8
vegetable peelings		93 (96)	98 (98)
apple core		90 (88)	98 (97)
egg shells		68 (65)	76 (79)
leaves		74 (78)	90 (95)
toast		63 (60)	84 (87)
newspaper		30 (30)	38 (34)
tea bags		47 (49)	51 (52)

1. Why can this rubbish go in the compost?

Appropriate comment about:

how it behaves (<i>breaks down, rots, decomposes, biodegrades</i>)	22 (29)	62 (60)
categorised as vegetable or organic	6 (9)	8 (9)
both of the above	1 (3)	7 (6)

Stick the stickers here of things that should NOT go in the compost.

% response
2007 ('03)
year 4 year 8

NOT for compost:		year 4	year 8
bones		57 (66)	66 (64)
chip packets		85 (85)	96 (96)
yoghurt container		79 (87)	94 (97)
pot scrub		79 (81)	83 (90)
cans		85 (87)	97 (97)
glass bottle		89 (94)	98 (98)
plastic bags		85 (85)	95 (97)

2. Why can't this rubbish go in the compost?

Appropriate comment about:

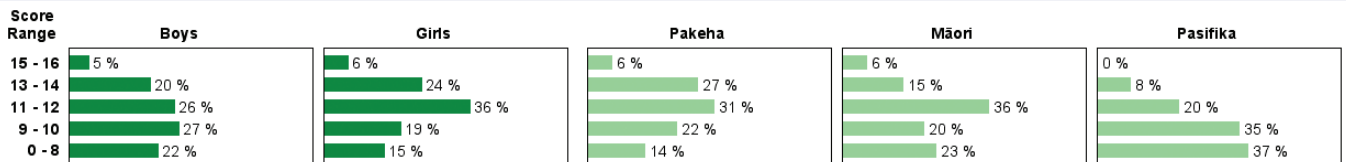
how it behaves (<i>doesn't break down/ rot/decompose, not biodegradable</i>)	19 (25)	58 (57)
categorised as man-made, not organic	7 (11)	8 (9)
both of the above	1 (2)	7 (4)

Total score:

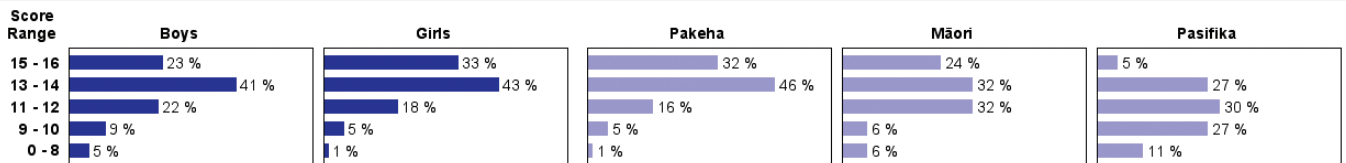
15-16	5 (11)	28 (29)
13-14	22 (21)	42 (44)
11-12	31 (34)	20 (18)
9-10	24 (19)	7 (5)
0-8	18 (15)	3 (4)

Subgroup Analyses:

Year 4



Year 8



Commentary:

In general, year 8 students did much better than year 4 students at explaining reasons for or against composting different materials. Between 2003 and 2007, performance declined a little for year 4 students but was unchanged for year 8 students. Year 8 girls scored significantly higher than boys, while Pasifika students, at both year levels, had limited success.

Vegetable Peelings

Tea Bags

Yoghurt Container

Toast

Chip Packets

Newspaper

Pot Scrub

Egg Shells

Apple Core

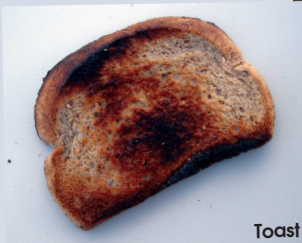
Bones

Plastic Bags

Cans

Glass Bottle

Leaves



Toast



Chip Packets



Vegetable Peelings



Tea Bags



Apple Core



Yoghurt Container



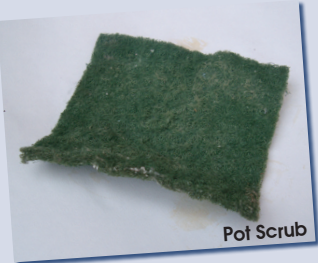
Bones



Egg Shells



Cans



Pot Scrub



Glass Bottle



Newspaper



Leaves



Plastic Bags