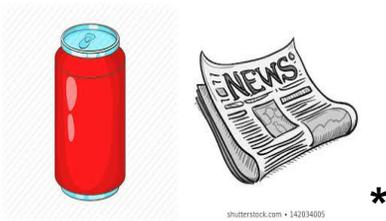


Activity / Experiment: Waste Management 101 Answer Sheet

You've completed the sorting challenge and you're ready to check your answers!

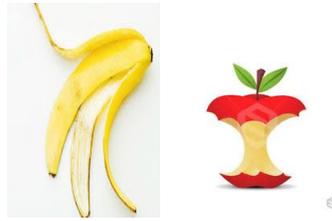
Recycle

The process of converting certain waste materials into new products



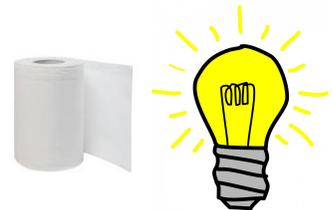
Compost

The process of turning organic material (like food scraps) into plant fertilizer (i.e. nutrients)



Landfill

The process of disposing of waste by burying it and covering it.



** Can be recycled OR composted*



Guiding Questions:

Why do you think it important to sort waste properly?

It's important to sort waste properly because it helps save our environment. Sorting your waste into appropriate categories, helps reduce the amount of waste that ends up in a landfill (see below, for more information on landfills). Doing so can also reduce the amount of money your community spends on trash pick-up, while minimizing your environmental impact.

Which of the three categories in the chart (compost, recycling, and landfill) is the worst for the environment? Why?

Landfill is the worst for the environment. When waste goes to a landfill, it is placed in a big pile of trash and left to decompose. As the material decomposes (or breaks down), it releases methane that pollutes our environment. Landfills also have negative effects on soil, animal, and human health.

Can people in New York City really compost at home? How?

Absolutely! Here is what you can do:

1. Store your food scraps in a plastic bag or bin in your freezer (that way, they won't smell up your apartment!)
2. Locate your nearest [compost drop-off site](#) and determine when it's open
3. Take your food scraps to your drop off site and place it in the bin

If you'd like to produce your own compost in your apartment, that's possible too! Follow the steps in this [DSNY Worm Bin pamphlet](#) to get started.
