

What a plant...

NEEDS

How do plants tell you what they need?

Plants aren't able to talk, smile, frown or blow kisses. They have different ways of telling us what they need. **We can learn what they need by using our 5 senses:**



Sight



Touch



Taste



Hearing



Smell

Here are some examples of how plants express their needs:

When you **SEE** droopy leaves:

it can mean the plant needs water or light

When the soil **FEELS** dry:

it can mean the plant needs water

When you **TASTE** a plant (that you can eat) and it tastes good:

that can mean the plant is happy

When you **HEAR** the soil drinking up water:

it can mean the plant was thirsty

When you **SEE** holes in the leaves:

it can mean that an insect is snacking on the plant, and that the plant needs protection

When you **SMELL** the plant or the soil and it smells good (or no smell):

that can mean the plant is happy

Nature Scavenger Hunt

**Remember* to be careful of habitats, and creatures big & small!*

Look for:

- Something that is **soft**
- Something that is **smooth**
- Something that is **small**
- Something that is **brown**
- Something that is **smelly**
- Something that is **round**
- Something that is **pretty**

Using your 5 senses, what other adjectives can you find in nature?

Next time you're making friends with a plant, use your 5 senses to get to know what it needs!

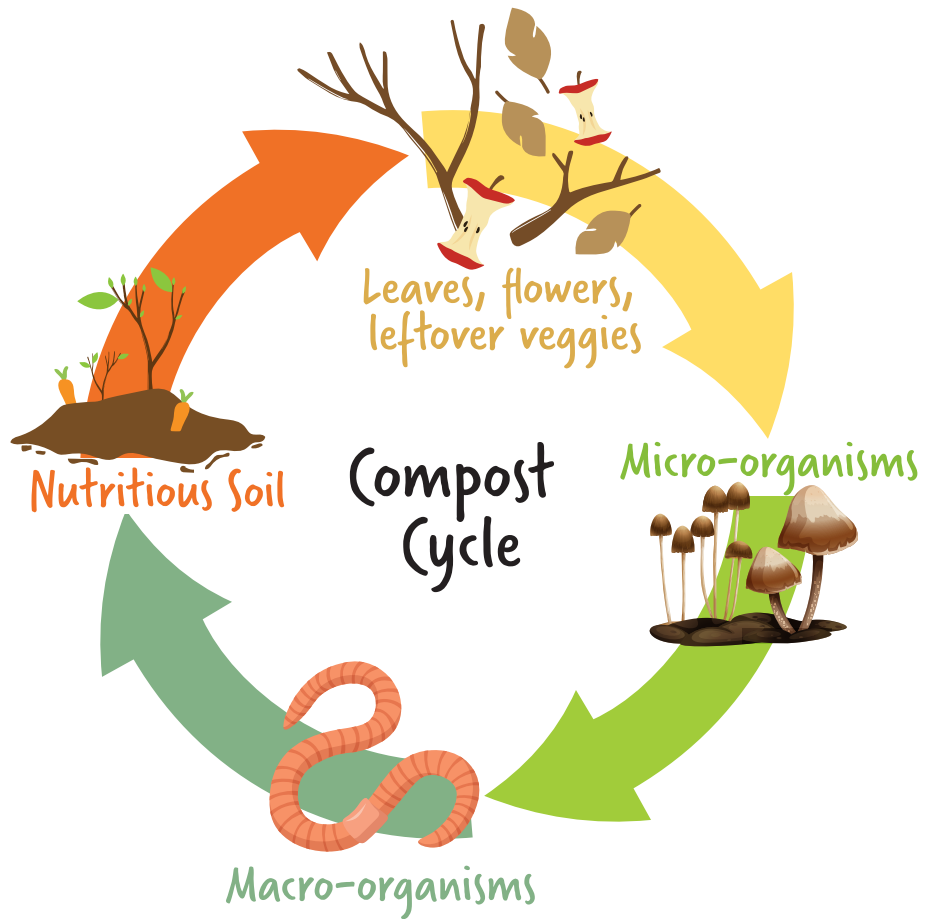
What's the difference between SOIL, DIRT & COMPOST

To keep the plants in our garden healthy and growing the tasty fruits and vegetables that we love, we need to make sure that it has healthy soil to grow in;

SOIL - is alive! It's full of minerals, water, air, organic matter (e.g. decomposed leaves, sticks, etc.) and living organisms (e.g. worms). Because it's alive, it can support life!

DIRT - is not alive. It's what gets on our clothes and shoes, or under our fingernails. It's soil that is out of place, and can't support life anymore

COMPOST – nature's way of digesting food! This is the process of (recycling) breaking down organic material (leaves, flowers, grass, fruits, vegetables) into healthy nutritious soil!



Leaves, flowers, leftover veggies

1) Leaves, flowers, leftover veggies drop

Micro-organisms

2) Organism's, Micro-organism-fungi and bacteria start to break things down into smaller pieces. They help things rot!

Macro-organisms

3) Macro-organism-worms, millipedes, pill bugs) eat the rotting bits and poop it out!

Nutritious Soil

4) This is how soil is made. The poop is called casting and is very nutritious for our garden!



5 THINGS
PLANTS NEED



Sun



Water



Air



Space



Soil



Love & Maintenance

POP BOTTLE COMPOSTER

MATERIALS

Empty 2L bottle (plastic)

Soil

Leaves, grass, newspaper, spoiled produce, and anything else you can find in your home or yard that can be composted

Water

INSTRUCTIONS

- 1) Cut the top off a 2 liter bottle and rinse it out well. Remove the label so that you can see everything inside the bottle well.
- 2) Start with a layer of soil on the bottom.
- 3) Add a layer of compostable material (no animal by products)
- 4) Alternate between the two until you reach the top.
- 5) Add water- start with a small amount. The mixture should be damp all the way through but not soaked.
- 6) Let your compost sit for several weeks in a spot where it will get plenty of sunlight and won't be tipped over.
- 7) Observe and make note as the material that you have added to your soda bottle compost bottle changes over time.

