



Rot Away

A logic based card game that can be delivered in isolation or in conjunction with the Composting 101 activity. This game encourages students to identify the rate at which different items decay within a compost heap.

This Resource Pack contains:

- Teachers Notes (this document)
- Rot Away clue cards ([images 1-6](#)/ [images 7-10](#))
- [Worksheet](#)
- [Answer sheet](#)

Additional Teacher provided resources:

- Giant worm for each group. The worm needs to have ten segments each large enough for the cards to fit on. At the head write 'fastest to decay' and on the tail 'slowest to decay'.
- Samples [in plastic bags of the materials on the timeline cards] (optional):

Grass	Young weeds	Potato peelings
Tea bags	Nettle	Thistles
Autumn leaves	Hedge clippings	Tree branches
Cardboard		

Curriculum Links:

- PHSE: Make links between cause and effect. Living in the wider world. Citizenship and Global issues.
- Geography: Improving the environment.
- Science: Food chains and food webs.

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of the game I will be able to:

- Understand that compost is a good means of recycling food and green waste
- Explain that there are a variety of materials that can be put into a compost heap and that they decay at different rates
- Explain that to make good compost you need different types of materials
- Work as a team to perform a logic based activity



Delivery.

Introduction to compost:

- Explain to the class what compost is and how it is formed (also see Composting 101 Activity)
- Composting is a natural process of decomposition carried out through the action of bacteria, fungi and minibeasts.
- It transforms fruit & vegetable peelings and garden waste into a nutrient rich food for the garden.

Discuss some of the benefits of composting, e.g.

- Recycles natural resources
- Reduces the need for chemical fertilisers and eliminates use of peat.

Playing the game.

- Divide the class into groups and give each group a set of the timeline cards and a giant worm
- The object of the game is to put the cards in the order the items take to decay within a compost heap using the phrases on the bottom of the cards to help
- Follow up by discussing with the class the types of things which can and can't go into a compost heap and why.



Rot Away Clue Cards

Grass



Grass is faster than potato peelings.

Potato Peelings



Potato peelings are slower than young weeds but faster than nettles.

Thistles



Thistles are slower than both nettles and tea bags.

Cardboard



Cardboard is the slowest.

Young Weeds



Young weeds are slower than grass, but faster than tea bags and are 2nd fastest.

Nettles



Nettles are faster than both thistles and autumn leaves, but not as fast as potato peelings.

Tea Bags



Tea bags are slower than potato peelings but faster than both nettles and thistles.

Autumn Leaves



Autumn leaves are found fourth from the tail end and are slower than thistles.

Tree Branches



Tree branches are faster than cardboard, but slower than autumn leaves.

Hedge Clippings



Hedge clippings are not as fast as autumn leaves but faster than tree branches.

Rot Away - Worksheet

The gardening waste you put in your compost bin decomposes at different rates. Play the Compost Timeline game and then fill in the timeline below. Use the word key to help.



- | | | |
|----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Tea bags | Hedge clippings | Potato peelings |
| Grass | Cardboard | Autumn leaves |
| Thistles | Tree branches | Young weeds |
| | Nettles | |



Quickest

Slowest

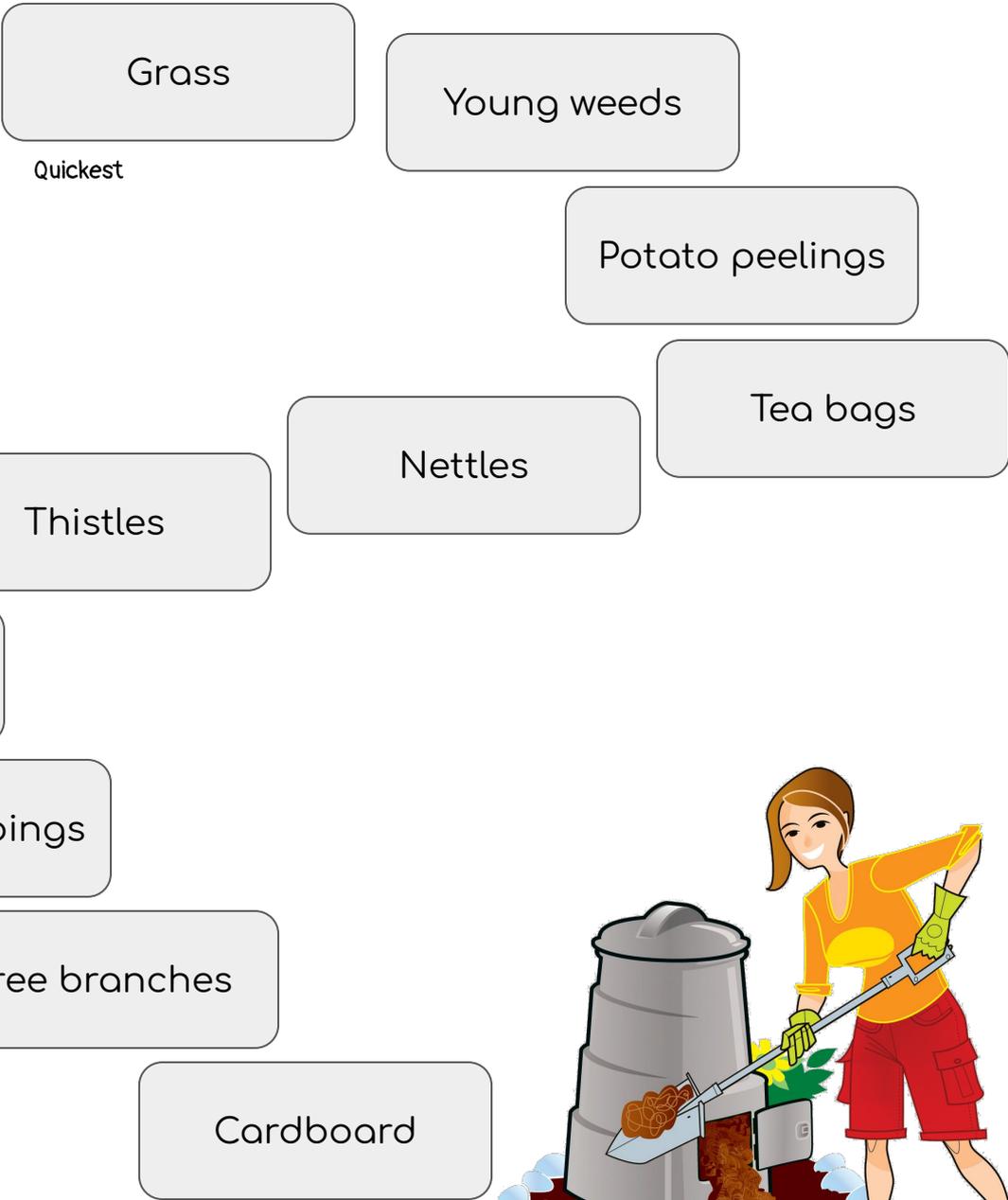


Rot Away - Answer Sheet

The gardening waste you put in your compost bin decomposes at different rates. Play the Compost Timeline game and then fill in the timeline below. Use the word key to help.



- | | | |
|----------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Tea bags | Hedge clippings | Potato peelings |
| Grass | Cardboard | Autumn leaves |
| Thistles | Tree branches | Young weeds |
| | Nettles | |



Quickest

Slowest

