

# HERE'S A REALLY ROTTEN IDEA

HOW ABOUT A LITTLE DETECTIVE WORK?  
BY INVESTIGATING WHAT ROTTS - AND WHAT DOESN'T, WE'LL SEE WHY PLASTIC WASTE IS SUCH A PROBLEM FOR THE PLANET. IT'S A DIRTY JOB, BUT SOMEONE'S GOTTA DO IT...

**BE PLASTIC SMART**  
A DIRT FOR GOOD PROJECT



+ 45 min intro and conclusion   mid level prep   parent supervision   hands on scientific

we'll learn about...

## SCIENCE

by doing an experiment, testing our predictions and making observations

## ENGLISH

through discussions about predictions and observations

## MATHS

by taking measurements

## you'll need:

- 3 plastic items  
eg yogurt pot, polythene bag, drinks bottle
- 3 non-plastic items  
eg some kitchen roll, cardboard, glass bottle
- 3 bits of food waste  
eg apple core, orange peel, bread crusts
- soil
- flower pots, buckets or other containers
- lolly sticks and permanent ink pens to label your buried items
- camera (your phone will do!)
- a grown-up to help you!





### how long will it take?

45 minutes, then a 2-week wait and a further 45 minute session

LET'S GET  
STARTED!

'Biodegradable' means things that will rot or break down naturally. Have a chat about it and think about which objects you've collected might rot easily

## rot or not?

Using your worksheet, list the objects and make a prediction about whether they'll rot easily (or not)

## DIG IT!

1

First snap a photo of each object before you bury it

2

Bury your objects – either in a series of plants pots, buckets or other containers filled with soil

3

Label each container so you know which material is in which pot

If you have the outside space, you could bury the items directly in the ground. Make sure you clearly label where you have buried them!

## 2 WEEKS LATER...

4

Go back to the trench and (carefully) dig out your objects. Take a photo of each and compare it with the ones you took two weeks ago.

## let's discuss!

were your predictions correct?

how much of each object has rotted?

what makes the difference?

which do you think are the best options for planet-friendly packaging

# ROT - OR NOT?

Use this worksheet to write down your predictions and findings

object	<b>how much do you think it will rot in two weeks?</b> highlight the most accurate statement			<b>how much has it started to rot in two weeks?</b> highlight the most accurate statement		
GLASS BOTTLE	NOT AT ALL	A LITTLE	A LOT	NOT AT ALL	A LITTLE	A LOT
	NOT AT ALL	A LITTLE	A LOT	NOT AT ALL	A LITTLE	A LOT
	NOT AT ALL	A LITTLE	A LOT	NOT AT ALL	A LITTLE	A LOT
	NOT AT ALL	A LITTLE	A LOT	NOT AT ALL	A LITTLE	A LOT
	NOT AT ALL	A LITTLE	A LOT	NOT AT ALL	A LITTLE	A LOT
	NOT AT ALL	A LITTLE	A LOT	NOT AT ALL	A LITTLE	A LOT
	NOT AT ALL	A LITTLE	A LOT	NOT AT ALL	A LITTLE	A LOT
	NOT AT ALL	A LITTLE	A LOT	NOT AT ALL	A LITTLE	A LOT
	NOT AT ALL	A LITTLE	A LOT	NOT AT ALL	A LITTLE	A LOT

