**Decomposing time**

**Key Stage 2**

**NC references**

**KS2 Science**

**Working scientifically**

* reporting and presenting findings from enquiries…in oral and written forms such as displays and other presentations
* identifying scientific evidence that has been used to support or refute ideas or arguments

**Living things and their habitats**

* describe how living things are classified into broad groups (focus on micro-organisms)

**Properties and changes of materials**

* compare and group together everyday materials on the basis of their properties

**Learning objectives**

Understand the term ‘decompose’

To compare the time it takes for different materials to decompose

**Teaching ideas**

*Link to Decomposition activity*

**Discuss**

Look at a range of objects (or pictures of objects), made from natural and synthetic materials. What are the items made from?

Show a picture of a landfill site and discuss what might happen to the waste when it is buried.

**Predict**

Ask children to order the materials according to how long they will take to decompose/ biodegrade.

Can they explain why?

**Record**

Children can use the Kids Against Plastic Decomposing times resource to show how long the materials take to decompose or they might complete research to find and compare decomposition times.

Record the information to compare decomposing times.

Children should consider the scales they use and record the data. For example,

Using tape or rolls of paper to create visual bar charts on the floor or playground.

Draw a bar chart.

Use ICT to create a bar chart.

**Describe and Explain**

Can children explain why the decomposition times may differ?

Why do some materials rot or biodegrade more quickly than others.

**Resources**

Objects or pictures of objects: apple cores, banana peel, newspaper, carrier bag, drink can, plastic bottle, plastic straws, disposable coffee cups, crisp packets, drinks cartons.

**Next steps**

Refer to *Kids Against Plastic ‘A Talk for Schools’* video.

Encourage children to find out what happens to plastic when it is left in the environment.

Children could use the information to create a poster or presentation about why it is important to reduce use of plastics and to reuse or recycle other materials.