



## Dig Into Compost

### Video #313

#### Developed for Grades: K - 1st

The WOW videos have been developed to inspire students to learn more about **NGSS Life Science and/or Earth Science Disciplinary Core Ideas**. These could include:

- Plants and animals (including humans) can change their environment.
- Living things need water, air, and resources from the land.
- Humans use natural resources for everything they do.
- All organisms have internal and external structures that serve various functions in growth, survival, behavior and reproduction.
- Importance of ecosystems and habitats
- Cross cutting concepts like patterns, cause and effect, etc.

The WOW videos and their support documents can also be used with **English Language Arts**. Here are some ideas:

1. Select a few questions from the Know-It-All section and have students write their answers.
2. Have students write a story related to the topic. They could even add illustrations. For some grades students could read their stories and/or video tape their readings to share.
3. Students could write a poem, a play, or a song based on something in the video that created an emotional response for them.
4. Key words in the video can be used in creative writing assignments.
5. Older students could explore the difference in learning from video as opposed to a book. What are the advantages and disadvantages?

## Answer Key for Know-It-All

1. **Was Eve right when they said that Dani was touching poop? Why or why not?**
  - Yes, and No! Compost is partly composed of the waste of worms and other organisms in the soil. Animal manure is sometimes added to compost to provide nitrogen. But, by the time the pile has been transformed into compost, the manure has been completely converted into soil and no "poop" remains.
2. **What does Wiggles the worm do?**
  - Wiggles the worm goes munch, munch, munch... wiggle, wiggle, wiggle... poop, poop, poop. Wiggles finds food in the compost, creates air pockets in the pile as it tunnels under the surface, and the food it digests comes out as a highly nutritious element of the compost.
3. **What do we make our compost out of?**
  - Our compost is mostly made of food scraps and unwanted plant matter that is pulled out of the garden. Sometimes we add manure to balance out the compost so everything can decompose quickly.
4. **Besides Wiggles and family, what other decomposers could you find in compost?**
  - Roly-poly bugs (or Pillbugs), flies, beetles, other invertebrates, bacteria, and fungus, especially molds.

