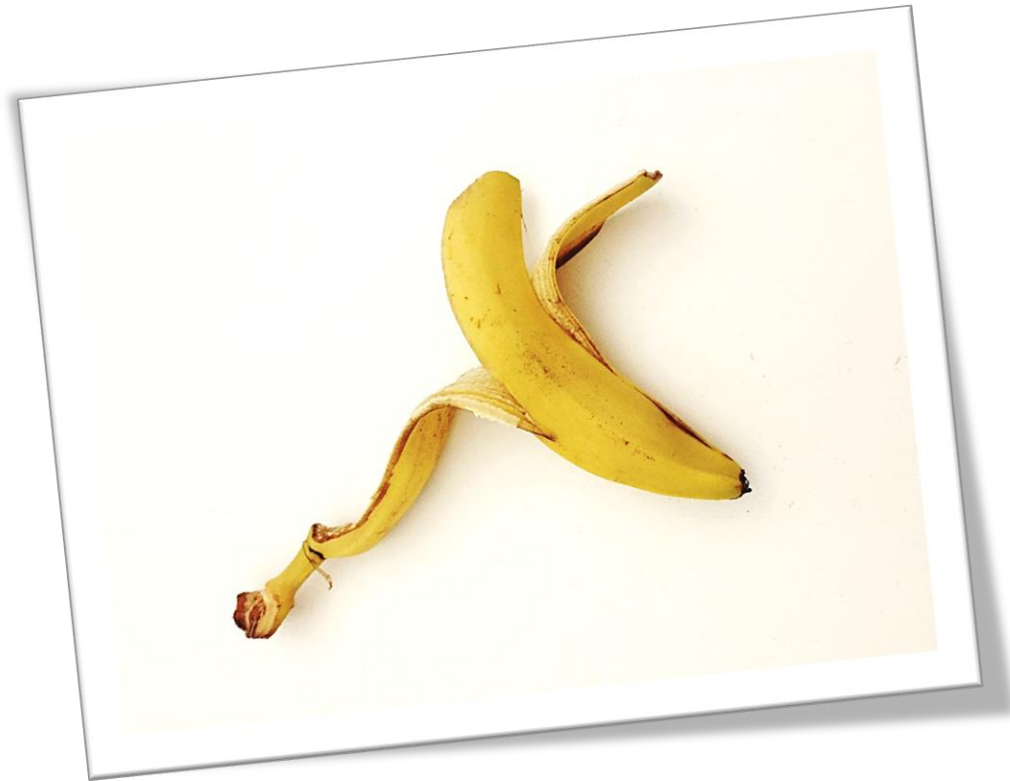




Miss Panda's Books

# Compost



Written by Amanda Tsigonias





## Miss Panda's Books

Miss Panda's Books Series helps children learn about plants, animals, and how to care for them. We teach the basic traditional knowledge of being self-sufficient by growing your own food and making healthy choices. Each book in every set will educate your child on a subject related to the set topic, and you can find a fun craft idea on the last page. We hope these books will bring your children wisdom and joy!



Making compost is a great way to reduce food and yard waste in our landfills. Composting turns these materials to "humus", a natural fertilizer to help our plants grow.



Compost is a mixture of brown and green “biodegradable” materials. Biodegradable means it can break down over time.

### GREEN MATERIALS

- Fruits & Veggies
- Grass Clippings
- Coffee Grounds & Filters
- Paper Tea Bags (no staples)
- Crushed Eggshells

### BROWN MATERIALS

- Dry Leaves & Twigs
- Shredded Paper & Paper Bags
- Shredded Cardboard (no tape or glue)
- Untreated Wood Chips



Compost is organic and must be made of things that decompose, which means there are certain things you should not add to it. Avoid adding chemicals, meat, dairy, cooked food, diseased or infested plants, painted wood, cat litter, dryer lint, glossy paper, or produce stickers.



Compost can be made in a pile or bin. Many people compost in their backyard.





## Steps to make a compost pile:

1. Add 4 inches of bulky browns (twigs, woodchips).
2. Stack greens and browns like lasagna.
3. Add a little water to moisten it.
4. Add more browns than greens.
5. Turn the compost occasionally, and make sure it stays moist with water.



When you are done adding materials to your compost pile, wait three to five months (turning occasionally), and then your compost will be ready to add to your garden! You can save what you don't use for a new compost pile.



# Composting Activity

## Supplies:

- 2-liter jug
- Paper shreds
- Food waste or coffee grounds
- Brown leaves
- Yard clippings
- Spray bottle
- Water
- Small garden shovel

## Directions:

1. Cut off the top of the bottle, and poke 4 holes in the bottom (a grownup can do this.)
2. Place a layer of "brown" on the bottom, and spray with water to moisten.
3. Add a layer of "green", and moisten.
4. Add another "brown", then another "green", and finish with a "brown", moistening each layer with water.
5. Turn every week using your small garden shovel, pulling the bottom layer to the top.
6. In 3 to 5 months, you can add this compost to your garden.