



Creation Lens

Exploring the World, Discovering God

Grade Level: Grade 7

Title:

The Renewing the Nature of Compost & The Renewing Nature of Grace

Denomination: Catholic

Lesson ID: LS-G7-01-CA

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Note: Web sites referenced in this lesson were valid at time of publication.

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LIFE SCIENCE – GRADE 7 – CATHOLIC

LESSON TITLE: The Renewing Nature of Compost & The Renewing Nature of Grace

GENERAL CONCEPT: Renewal

SCIENCE LESSON CONCEPT

- The renewing nature of compost

GOAL OF SCIENCE LESSON

- Students will make a working compost pile or bin.

OUTCOME EXPECTED

- Students will produce usable compost.
- The environment will be enriched through the better use of recycled plant matter.

RELIGION LESSON CONCEPT

- The renewing nature of grace

GOAL OF RELIGION LESSON

- Students will renew their interest in receiving the sacraments.

OUTCOME EXPECTED

- Students will have a greater reverence for the sacraments.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Science Journal page: Compost
- Pen or pencil
- Container or place to collect organic matter
- Leaves
- Sod/grass clippings
- Kitchen waste (no bones or fat)
- Shovel or tool to turn the compost
- Plastic gloves for students

SCIENCE METHODOLOGY

- **DEFINE** the term compost.
- **HAVE** the students write the definition on the Science Journal page.
- **EXPLAIN** the process of decomposition.
- **SELECT** the container or place for composting.
- **COLLECT** composting components.
- **BREAK** the components into smaller pieces to facilitate faster decomposition.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- Religion Notebook
- Pen or pencil
- Bible
- Symbols of the seven sacraments: water, words for the Act of Contrition, bread and wine, oil, rings, stole.

RELIGION METHODOLOGY

- **SAY:** By the Paschal Mystery we become part of the Church.
- **DEFINE:** Pascal Mystery. (suffering, death, and resurrection of Jesus)
- **DISCUSS** the results of receiving the sacraments to feed the soul and renew us. (stronger, able to withstand temptations)
- **STUDENTS are** responsible for taking notes of discussions in their Religion Notebook.

- **HAVE** the students layer the components in the container or at the compost site.
 - **TURN** the compost frequently – at least every several days.
 - **OBSERVE and RECORD** the decomposition over time. Students must keep a log on the Science Journal page with entries at least twice a week.
 - **DISCUSS** the necessity of composting:
 - ~ converts garbage to a renewable resource
 - ~ creates new and fertile soil which feeds the existing soil
 - ~ helps to replace soil being lost through erosion
 - ~ enables plants to be fed.
 - **HAVE** the students work the new soil into existing flower beds.
 - **POSIT:** Compost is a renewable resource which uses kitchen and yard waste to enrich and renew the soil.
- **DISCUSS** how you feel different when you come out of the confessional or reconciliation room. (relieved, at peace)
 - **DISCUSS** how you feel after receiving Communion. (with Jesus, prayerful, happy)
 - **SAY:** It is not as much about how you feel after receiving a sacrament as it is about the grace you receive through the sacraments. Feelings come and go. Faith requires a commitment to be in a good relationship with Jesus.
 - **ASK:** What is grace? (grace is the life of Christ in us)
 - **ASK:** What does grace help us to do that we cannot do without it? (be generous, avoid temptations)
 - **HAVE** students list the seven sacraments and list a particular grace or help that can be received.
 - ~ *Baptism:* Child of God, member of the church cleansed from all sin, brother of Jesus;
 - ~ *Confirmation:* Gifts of the Holy Spirit, fruits of the Holy Spirit, strong in the faith;
 - ~ *Holy Eucharist:* Fed and strengthened, missioned to spread the Gospel;
 - ~ *Penance:* Forgiveness, conviction to do better, able to recognize sin, strength to withstand temptations;
 - ~ *Anointing of the Sick:* Strength to heal, peace of mind, forgiveness of sin;
 - ~ *Holy Orders:* Strength to live the priestly commitment, zeal to spread the Gospel;
 - ~ *Marriage:* Strength to live the married vows, patience.

- **ASK:** What graces do people of your age particularly need in today's world?
- **DISCUSS:** Has the grace from these sacraments helped you to be strong in living the faith?
- **MENTION** St. Tarcisius as an example (reverence of the Eucharist) or St. Maria Goretti (protecting her chastity) as examples of young adults. (see Religion Links section)
- **POSIT:** Grace is the life of Christ in us. Without it our faith could die. Grace is as necessary to us as breathing. Just as compost strengthens and renews the soil, so grace strengthens and renews us.

SCIENCE LINKS

www.proprecycles.org/Vermiculture.html

[Composting Education - Vermicomposting](#) ... **grade** math, **7th grade Science** and Technology, and **7th grade Ecology**. ... and Ecology (**7th grade**), and Math (8th **grade**). The complete standards are listed ... Another complete lesson for composting.

RELIGION LINKS

www.ewtn.com/librtary/mary/tarcis.htm

[St. Tarcisius - New Home Page Navigation Top](#) **Tarcisius** was a twelve-year-old acolyte during one of the fierce Roman persecutions of the third century, probably during that of Valerian. Each day, from a secret ...

www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id78

[St. Maria Goretti - Saints & Angels - Catholic Online](#) The story of the **saint's** short life, by Terry Matz.

KEY WORDS

- COMPOST
- RENEW
- SOIL
- KITCHEN WASTE
- DECOMPOSITION

KEY WORDS

- GRACE
- SACRAMENTS
- RENEWAL
- LIFE-GIVING
- NUTRITION
- SAINT TARCISIUS
- SAINT MARIA GORETTI