

6th grade

## Exploring Compost Critters

**Compost-** Mixture of decomposed organic matter that is used to improve soil structure and provide plants with necessary nutrients for growth and development.

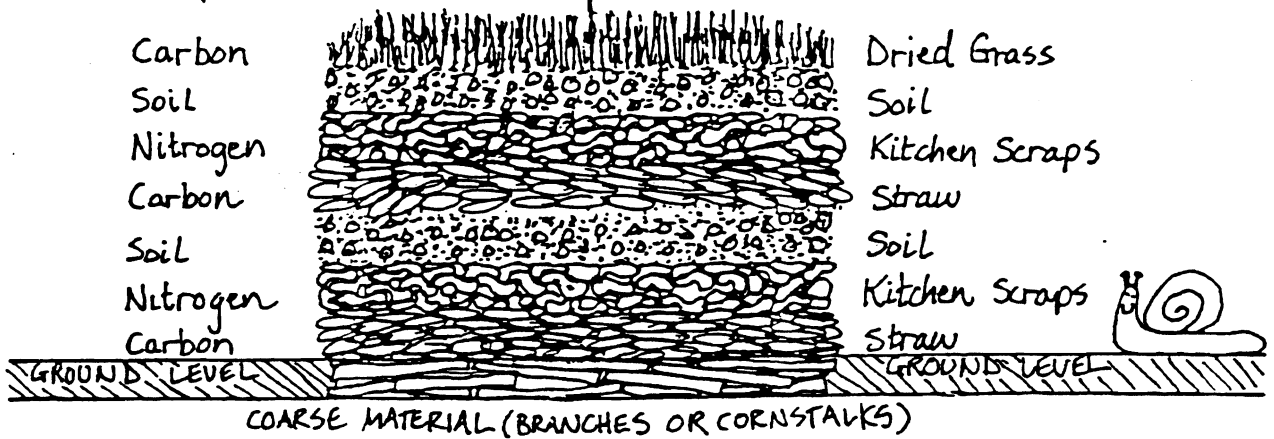
**Decomposition-** the breakdown of highly organized matter into simpler, useable molecules/nutrients

**Organic Matter-** material that was once living, eg: food wastes, weeds, leaves, manure, branches, old plants

**Carbon (dried matter) + Nitrogen (fresh matter) + Soil/Minerals + Air + Water =  
Compost (recycled waste!)**

### SAMPLE COMPOST PILE

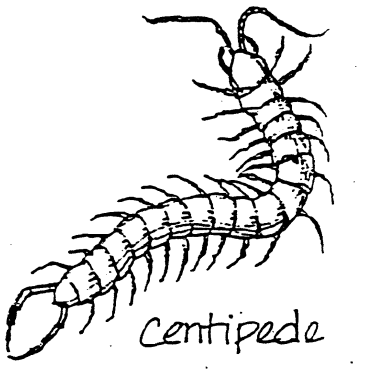
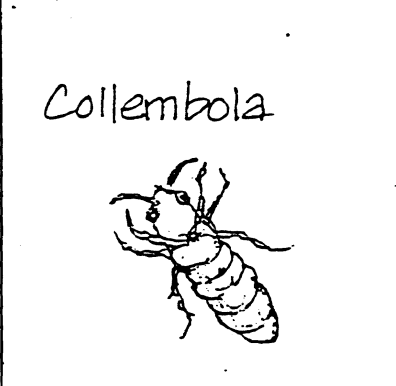
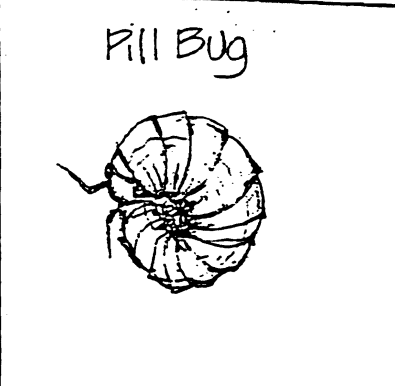
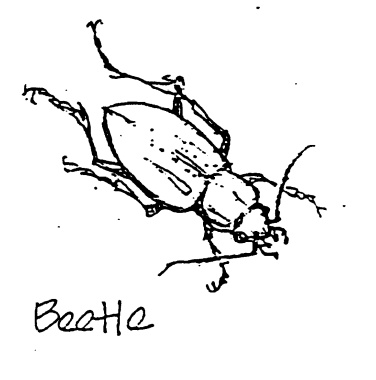
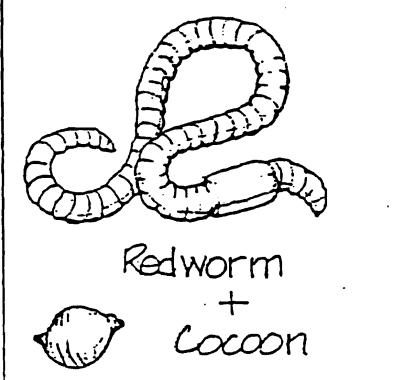
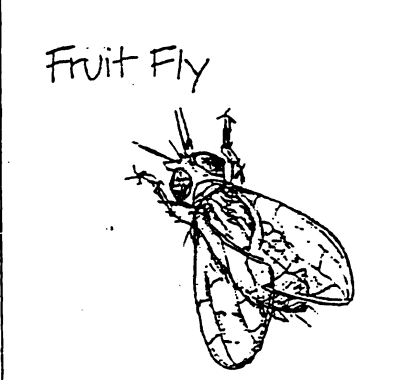
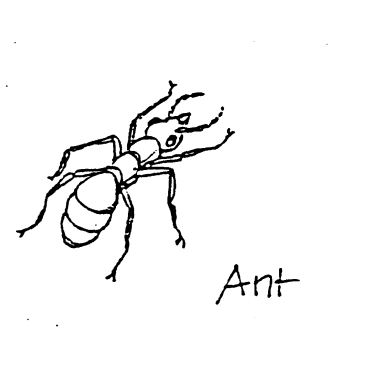
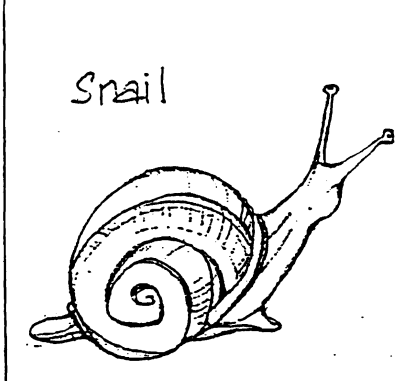
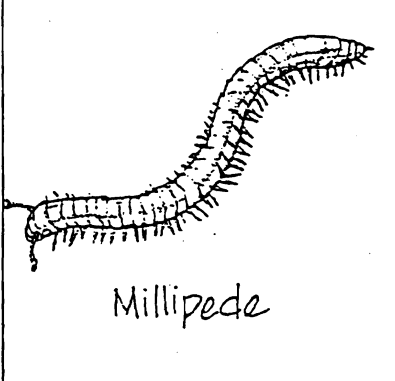
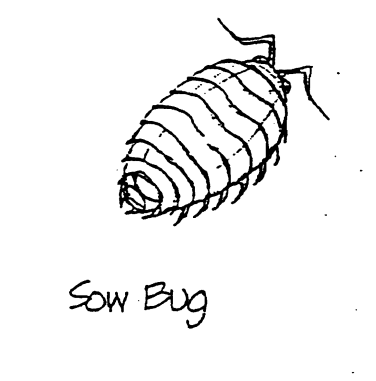
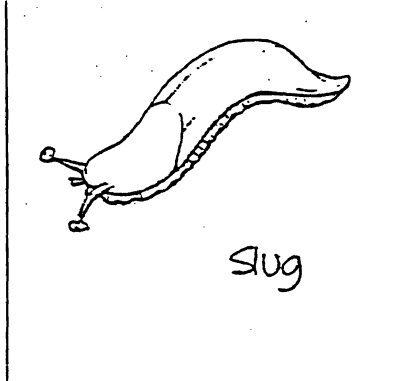
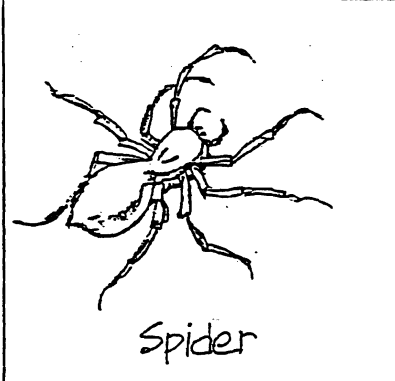
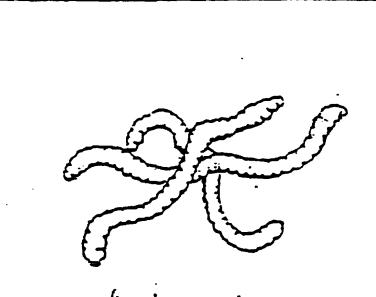
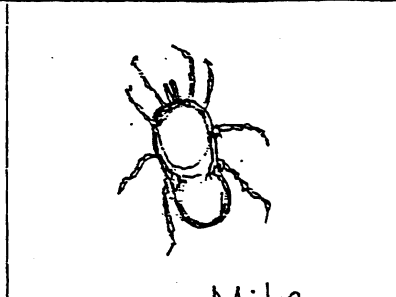
This is the slow method of composting and will take 2-4 months to decompose.



### Who helps in this process?

- Billions of MICRO-organisms (bacteria & fungi)
- Broad diversity of MACRO-organisms

"COMPOST CRITTERS ID SHEET"

 <p>Centipede</p>	<p>Collembola</p> 	<p>Pill Bug</p> 
 <p>Beetle</p>	 <p>Redworm + Cocoon</p>	<p>Fruit Fly</p> 
 <p>Ant</p>	<p>Snail</p> 	 <p>Millipede</p>
 <p>Sow Bug</p>	 <p>Slug</p>	 <p>Spider</p>
 <p>White Worm</p>	 <p>Mite</p>	<p>Springtail</p> 