



Reverse Garden

Plant a garden in reverse, and investigate what “biodegradable” means.

Materials needed:

- *Deep pan
- *Trowel
- *Soil
- *Variety of garbage (apple core, dried leaves, newspaper, plastic foam, old sock, empty can)
- *Watering can or pitcher

Directions:

Instead of planting seeds and bulbs and watching plants and flowers sprout blossoms, bury different kinds of garbage and observe them as they decompose. Fill a deep pan with soil, and bury several kinds of garbage under the soil. Plant an apple core, some dried leaves, a crumpled piece of newspaper, a piece of plastic foam, an old sock, and an empty can. Water your garden every couple of days. Dig up the garden after a week, and see what is happening to the items. Rebury your decomposing plantings, and continue to water every couple days. Dig up the garden again, and observe it after 2 or 3 more weeks. Then replant it one more time, and check it in several more weeks. Note what changes and how and what does not. You may want to keep a journal and make sketches each time you unearth your garden for observation. (Be sure to wash your hands or wear disposable gloves each time you work in your garden.)

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