

CLOVERBUDDIES

**A 4-H EXPLORATION ACTIVITY SERIES FOR
CLOVERBUD MEMBERS**



MAY 2026

PROJECT EXPLORATION:

**NATURAL RESOURCES &
ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION**



UW-MADISON EXTENSION
LA CROSSE COUNTY

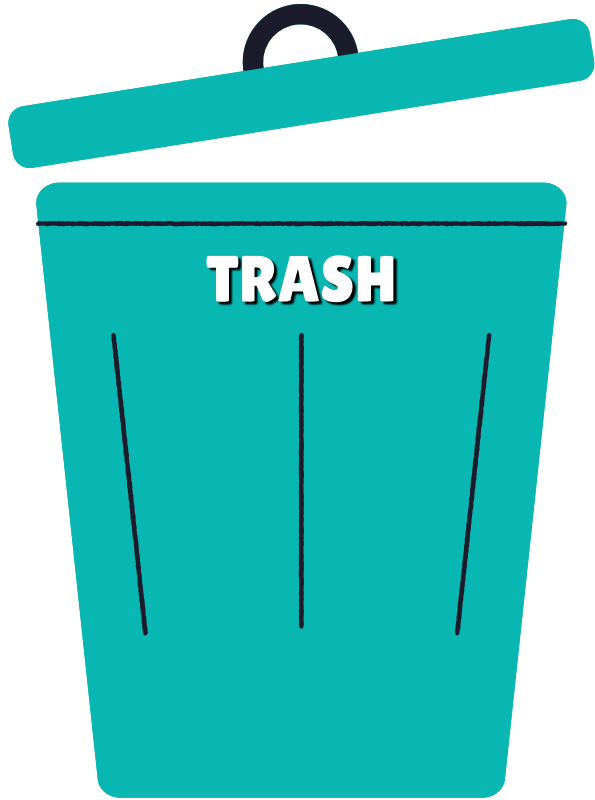
WASTE MANAGEMENT

When you put something in the trash bin it goes to a landfill or waste management facility, when you recycle something that material is repurposed for something else, and when you use something for compost it decomposes and becomes a fertile material with many purposes! Cut out the objects below and sort them into either the trash, recycling or compost bin on the next page!



WASTE MANAGEMENT

Cut out the objects on the previous page. Then, lay or glue them to the side of the chart below that you think they should belong in - trash, recycling, or compost!



RECYCLING WORD FIND

Recycling reduces the need for additional landfill space, helps save greenhouse gasses, saves natural resources, and contributes to improved air and water quality. Recycling also benefits Wisconsin's economy through the creation of new industries, business opportunities and thousands of good paying jobs. See if you can find the recycling vocabulary listed below in the word search!

TRASH
LITTER

REUSE
REDUCE

ENVIRONMENT
WASTE

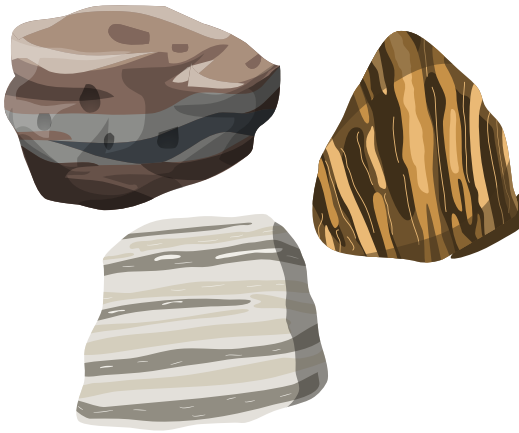
RECYCLE
PLASTIC

GLASS
PAPER

C	W	D	B	E	F	K	O	R	U	Y	W	J	D	D	M	H
Z	K	Z	O	V	F	P	H	H	R	U	M	X	Q	E	J	V
S	U	V	I	Y	U	T	W	H	N	O	U	L	P	N	C	G
I	P	G	L	A	S	S	K	H	Q	D	S	I	A	V	F	E
G	D	I	X	H	R	G	J	H	G	P	Q	T	P	I	Z	G
U	R	Z	H	F	H	P	A	S	F	G	U	T	E	R	A	P
A	C	D	U	S	Y	P	S	B	O	R	H	E	R	O	C	Z
Z	R	E	D	U	C	E	F	T	L	E	A	R	T	N	Z	M
F	Q	M	B	G	F	W	A	L	H	U	B	P	C	M	M	F
K	B	I	A	B	A	W	G	P	R	S	I	L	F	E	T	N
Q	Y	I	J	G	T	Q	A	D	E	E	L	A	X	N	R	E
Q	I	B	W	J	F	V	V	E	C	D	U	S	A	T	A	E
J	F	R	D	J	W	U	X	F	Y	A	J	T	C	E	S	H
L	U	D	N	U	B	K	S	M	C	L	U	I	L	L	H	K
X	Q	N	V	E	L	S	R	B	L	Z	T	C	K	T	Q	W
I	R	W	E	G	E	G	M	B	E	B	V	W	A	S	T	E
U	J	U	O	G	V	C	Q	Q	J	I	X	N	Q	F	P	H

ROCK ON!

Did you know there are different types of rocks? A rock is a solid made up of a bunch of different minerals. Rocks are generally not uniform or made up of exact structures that can be described by scientific formulas. Scientists generally classify rocks by how they were made or formed. There are three major types of rocks: Metamorphic, Igneous, and Sedimentary.



METAMORPHIC

Metamorphic rocks are formed by great heat and pressure. They are generally found inside the Earth's crust where there is enough heat and pressure to form the rocks. Metamorphic rocks are often made from other types of rock. For example, shale, a sedimentary rock, can be changed, or metamorphosed, into a metamorphic rock such as slate or gneiss. Other examples of metamorphic rocks include marble, anthracite, soapstone, and schist.



IGNEOUS

Igneous rocks are formed by volcanoes. When a volcano erupts, it spews out hot molten rock called magma or lava. Eventually the magma will cool down and harden, either when it reaches the Earth's surface or somewhere within the crust. This hardened magma or lava is called igneous rock. Examples of igneous rocks include basalt and granite.



SEDIMENTARY

Sedimentary rocks are formed by years and years of sediment compacting together and becoming hard. Generally, something like a stream or river will carry lots of small pieces of rocks and minerals to a larger body of water. These pieces will settle at the bottom and over a really long time (perhaps millions of years), they will form into solid rock. Some examples of sedimentary rocks are shale, limestone, and sandstone.

MATCH THE ROCKS

Draw a line to connect the details to the correct rock type!

These rocks have small, shiny, or sparkly crystals.

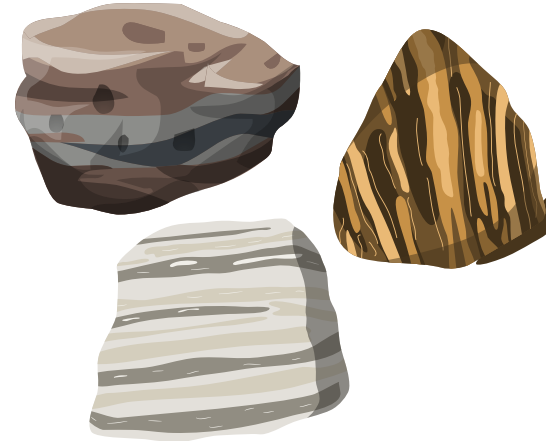
These rocks have fossils or imprints of leaves, shells or insects.

Some of these rocks have holes like swiss cheese.

Some of these rocks are not rough but smooth and shiny like glass.

These rocks have ribbon like layers.

In these rocks you may see individual stone pebbles or sand grains.



WORM TRACKS

You already know that worms are fascinating creatures, now you can build them a temporary home! In this activity, watch them tunnel through the dirt, then return them to their natural environment after a few days!

MATERIALS

- 2 clear plastic containers (one slightly smaller than the other)
- Soil
- Worms
- Screen or piece of cloth
- Rubber band



INSTRUCTIONS

1. Place your smaller container inside of your larger container, (you want this to be enough room where you will be able to see the worms make their tunnels between the containers).
2. Add fresh dirt (not potting soil) to fill the space between your two containers so the worms have something to tunnel through.
3. Make sure to keep your container moist, but not soaking wet.
4. Cover your containers with screen or cloth so that there is still good air flow. Secure your cover with a rubber band so your new worm friends don't escape!
5. Now watch the worms as they tunnel through the soil!

COMPOST MAZE

Color in the compost pile maze picture below then help draw a path through the maze to get the worm from the top of the pile to the bottom of the pile to their worm friends!



START!

END

YOUR FAIR PROJECT!

Let's make a...
SMALL TERRARIUM!
(Dept 17, Class A, Item 5)

Welcome to a new section of Cloverbuddies, where we share how to complete one fair project for each area highlighted. It's not required, but it's fun!



A terrarium is a closed container, usually see through, where plants and small animals can live on all of the air, water and nutrients within that space. It depends on a good balance of three things: light, soil, and water.

This can be a fair exhibit! Visit www.lacrosseinterstatefair.com after June 1st, and you can enter this exhibit on the registration.

- Select Dept 17 for Cloverbuds, Class A for Cloverbud, and Item 5, Small Terrarium.
- Youth who exhibit in the Cloverbud department participate in face-to-face judging at the fair. The judge will ask age-appropriate questions of the youth to determine their knowledge and enjoyment of the project they completed. Cloverbuds get special Cloverbud ribbons at the fair.
- For bonus points with your judge, try to have as clear air/fog as possible in your terrarium. It's good to have moisture visible, but it shouldn't be swampy.

YOUR FAIR PROJECT!

Let's make a... **SMALL TERRARIUM!**

(Dept 17, Class A, Item 5)

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Clean, clear plastic cup or mason jar
- Soil
- Small Gravel
- Seeds or plants
- Lid for cup or jar

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Fill your cup or mason cup with one inch of gravel at the bottom. Dribble some water over the gravel and watch it drip down to the bottom. This is how water acts in your backyard.
 - a. Did you know that we are all living on top of aquifers? Aquifers are rocks in the ground that hold our groundwater. We use groundwater for just about all our water needs!
2. Next fill your container with soil on top of the gravel, until the container is 3/4ths full (in between half full and completely full). Dribble more water and watch it flow down to your little aquifer.
3. Now you can plant your plants or seeds. What little plants can you find in your park or yard that you want to include? You can choose just about anything! If you are planting seeds, you should follow the instructions on the seed packet for depth and light needs.
4. Next we cover our terrarium! Seal it up well and put it in a sunny space. Watch your plants thrive!

How long does it take for the sides of your container to get foggy?
_____ days

- The fog is condensation or clouds from the water in your aquifer. As the water on the walls of the container becomes heavy, it will fall to the ground as rain and will become groundwater again.
- If it gets too foggy, you might need to re-balance your moisture. Open the container for a day or two.

APRIL ANSWER KEYS

Answers to all Cloverbuddies activities will appear on the back cover of the following month's issue. For answers to this issue, watch for next month's installment of Cloverbuddies!

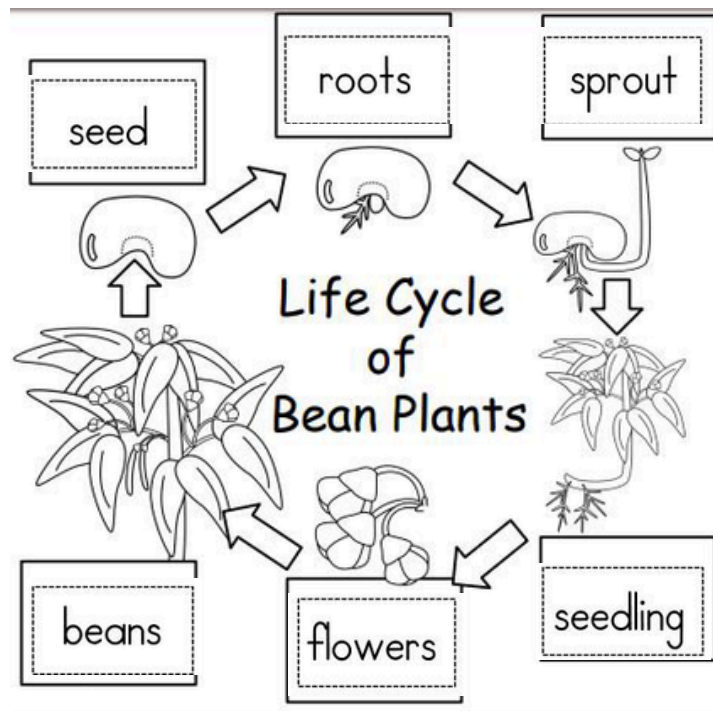
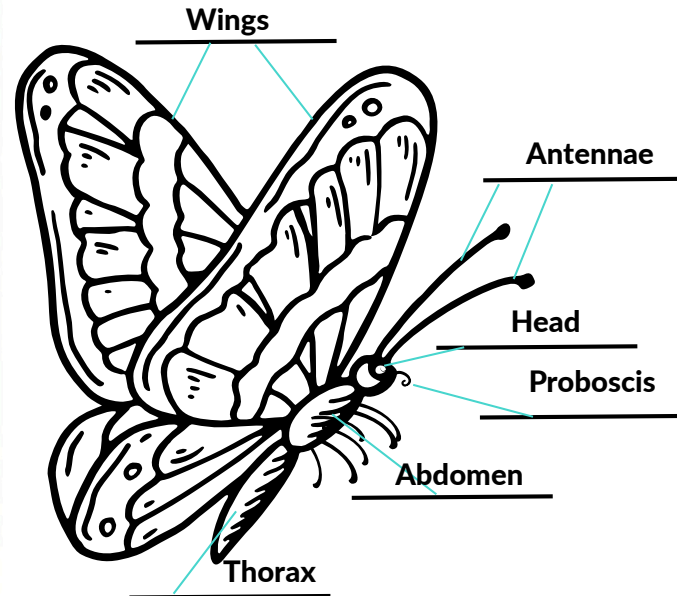
VEGETABLE GARDEN

- 1- orange
- 2- red
- 3- green
- 4- brown
- 5- yellow
- 6- blue

Gardening is a great way for you to start learning about plant and soil sciences! You can watch your own fruits and vegetables grow, and investigate the soil if anything is going wrong with your plants. Color in the picture by coloring the parts of the picture according to the key below!



POLLINATOR ACTIVITY



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