Compost Word Hunt

Decode long words through syllables and meaningful word parts.

ELA.5.F.1.3 "Use knowledge of grade-appropriate phonics and word-analysis skills to decode words. a. Apply knowledge of all letter-sound correspondences, syllabication patterns..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle six multisyllabic words in the passage. Write the number of syllables above each circled word, and box any prefix, suffix, or smaller word you recognize inside it.

A Bin That Builds Soil

1 At the school garden, Maya noticed a covered bin labeled "compost." Inside, tiny decomposers, such as bacteria and fungi, were breaking down apple cores and dry leaves. This process changes old food scraps into dark, crumbly material that can enrich soil. Maya learned that the bin needs air, moisture, and a balanced mix of green and brown materials.

2 During decomposition, microbes use oxygen as they feed. If a pile becomes too wet or tightly packed, it may smell unpleasant because less oxygen reaches the center. Gardeners can aerate the pile by turning it with a fork. They may also add shredded newspaper, which creates spaces for air and helps absorb extra moisture more quickly.

3 When compost is ready, it looks nearly like soil and has an earthy smell. It should not contain recognizable chunks of fruit or leaves. Maya spread a thin layer around seedlings, then watered them. The compost improved the soil structure, helping roots receive water and nutrients. By reusing plant waste, the garden reduced the amount of trash sent away.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. Write decomposition with slashes between its syllables. How many syllables does it have?

2. In unpleasant, write the prefix and the base word. What does the prefix tell you?

3. Find the compound word that names something gardeners can add to the pile. Write its two smaller words, then show its syllables with slashes.

4. Break reusing into its prefix, base word, and suffix. Then write it with slashes between its syllables.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a two-sentence compost tip. Include one multisyllabic word built with a prefix or suffix and one compound word, use slashes to show the syllables in both words, underline the built word, and box the compound word.

ANSWER KEY

Compost Word Hunt

GRADE 5 · ELA.5.F.1.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Circle six multisyllabic words in the passage. Write the number of syllables above each circled word, and box any prefix, suffix, or smaller word you recognize inside it. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Write decomposition with slashes between its syllables. How many syllables does it have?	**de/com/po/si/tion, 5 syllables**
2	In unpleasant, write the prefix and the base word. What does the prefix tell you?	**un- + pleasant; un- means not.**
3	Find the compound word that names something gardeners can add to the pile. Write its two smaller words, then show its syllables with slashes.	**news + paper; news/pa/per**
4	Break reusing into its prefix, base word, and suffix. Then write it with slashes between its syllables.	**re- + use + -ing; re/us/ing**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

An _un/cov/ered_ compost pile can become unpleasant after heavy [rain/fall]. Turn it so air can circulate.

For the marking job, accept six correctly identified multisyllabic words with accurate syllable counts and reasonable boxes around meaningful prefixes, suffixes, or compound parts. In Part 3, accept any factual two-sentence tip that includes and marks both required word types with accurate syllable slashes.