

Super SOIL!

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Kids



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Soil covers a **HUGE** part of the Earth's land surface, and supports most of our planet's life. Check out this flowchart to see why we all need the brilliant brown stuff to survive...



1 Small critters like earthworms make their homes in the soil and eat there, too. By doing this, they leave behind important nutrients.

2 Plants feed on the nutrients that worms leave behind in the soil, so that they're able to grow big and strong.



3 Small creatures eat the plants to get the food they need to survive. Human beings also need to eat the fruit and vegetables that plants and trees produce.



4 Bigger creatures, like frogs and birds, eat the insects that feed on the plants, so that they can stay healthy and feed their young.



5 As creatures and plant-life die, they decompose, adding important nutrients to the soil – and then the whole process starts again!



Check out NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC Kids magazine and ngkids.co.uk for lots more fun every month!



MAKE YOUR OWN GARDEN COMPOST

If you want to grow some plants in your garden, then making your own compost is a great way to add nutrients to the soil...

1 Position a large bin in a shaded corner of the garden. To get the compost started, put a pile of grass cuttings in the bin.

2 Next, add your 'green' materials (things that decay quickly), such as vegetable peelings, tea bags or animal droppings.

3 Now add your 'brown' materials (products that decay slowly), such as egg and cereal boxes, waste paper and wood chippings.

4 For the best results, keep adding equal amounts of green and brown matter, and turn the compost every other day.

COOL TIP! Add some **compost** and **branding** worms to your bin, to make sure it wriggles with life!



You'll really **dig** growing your own greens!

