**Composting: Putting Microbes to Work (Again!) ☺ Worksheet**

**Answer Key**

* **Nature's process of recycling organic materials into a rich soil is known as  
  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.**

**composting**

**food waste**

**composting**

* **You can turn waste materials like \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ into soil by \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_!**

**Title each column to describe what is similar among these two types of materials:**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Compostable Materials** | **Non-Compostable Materials** |
| coffee grounds and filters  cotton rags  egg shells  fruits and vegetables  grass clippings  hay and straw  houseplants  leaves  sawdust and wood chips  tea bags  wool rags  yard trimmings | dairy products  butter  milk  sour cream  yogurt  eggs  diseased or insect-ridden plants  fats, grease, lard and oils  meat and fish bones and scraps  pet wastes (such as dog or cat feces, soiled cat litter)  yard trimmings treated with chemical pesticides |

**The composting process requires four things:**

**organic materials**

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**water**

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**oxygen**

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**microbes**

1. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_