

Biodegradation Lesson Plan

APPENDIX: Decomposition of Litter

- Banana: 3-5 weeks
- Batteries: 100 years
- Cardboard box: 4 weeks
- Cigarette butt: up to 10 years
- Cotton rag: 1-5 months
- Disposable diapers: 500-600 years
- Glass bottle: unknown (will eventually break into tiny bits but not biodegrade)
- Leather: up to 50 years
- Lumber: 10-15 years
- Milk cartons (plastic-coated): 5 years
- Monofilament fishing line: 800 years
- Nylon fabric: 30-40 years
- Orange peel: 2-5 weeks
- Paper: 2-5 months
- Plastic 6-pack rings: 450 years (in this time, it will break into tiny bits but not biodegrade)
- Plastic bag: up to 500 years (in this time, it will break into tiny bits but not biodegrade)
- Plastic-coated paper: 5 years
- Plastic soda bottles: unknown (will eventually break into tiny bits but not biodegrade)
- Rope: 3-14 months
- Rubber boot sole: 50-80 years
- Soda can: 200-500 years
- Tin foil: never (will eventually break into tiny bits but not biodegrade)
- Wool clothing: 1-5 years