# 6th grade Ecology Kit Nature’s Recyclers Lab # 80

# By The Jackson Four

-The big idea or main concept of the lesson**: Decomposer’s importance in the ecosystem**

-The Hook – story, leading question, other… **Students will make mud pies. Each student will be given a tub with soil and a pitcher of water. Students will be given 10-15 minutes to play with moist soil. Students will generate questions based on their experiences with the mud pies.**

-Necessary prior knowledge/experience: **Ask students if they have ever been walking in their yard or a park > Has anyone ever gotten a squishy surprise? (i.e. doggie dodo) What happens to our waste and garbage? Discuss prior knowledge about how waste is broken down in nature. Generate additional questions from prior knowledge.**

-Suggested adaptations/improvements to the procedures

**1. How to collect samples needs to be clarified for students. Have them draw diagram of where soil was collected.**

**2. NEED Student book to set up Extraction apparatus .**

**3. Make sure your school has all equipment to complete lab.**

-Suggestions for Lesson extensions/Addenda

 **Composting – Have students create and monitor compost pile.**

**Use composed soil to plant flowers and bulbs around the school.**

-Reflections

**Dry soil no Nematodes. Moist Soil is essential for nematodes.**

**Great hands on activity for students .**

**Awesome experience to see microscopic life.**

**Circle back to student generated questions. Knowledge that has been gained through personal experience is more meaningful.**

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Timing

 **2 – 3 class periods**

1. **to collect soil samples set up apparatus**

**1 to collect nemotodes and create slides**

**1 to explore student generated questions and Extension activity**

-What other materials are needed for the investigation

**High powered microscope- BORROW from Gordon**

**Bulb planter to collect soil samples**

**Ask yourselves:**

Does the lesson follow the QIP plan? Is SIP present in every section?

Your suggestions should be enhancing the SIP and QIP of the lesson