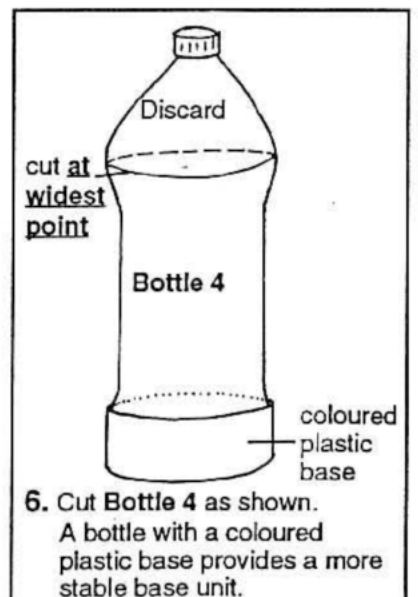
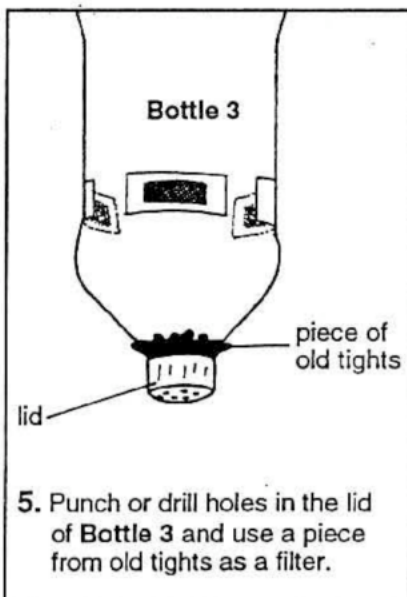
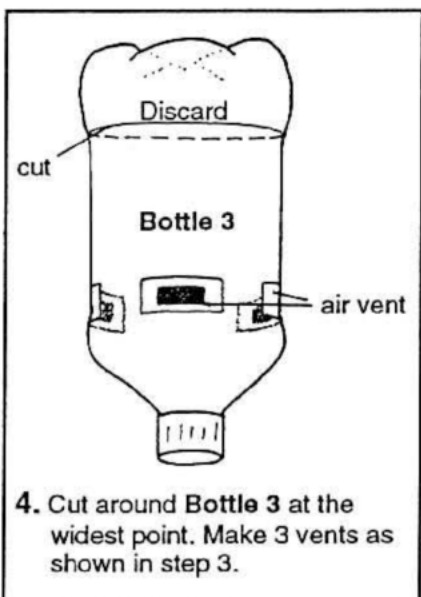
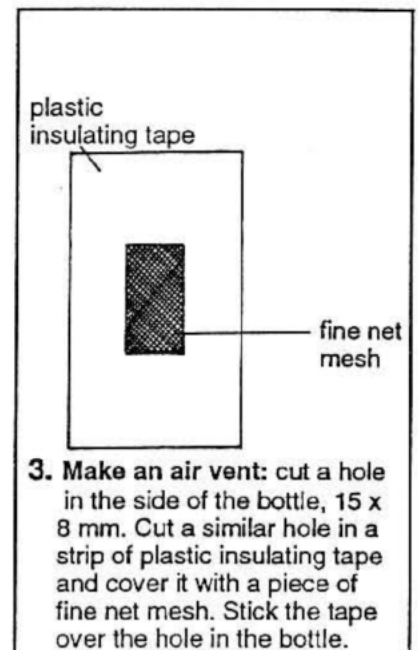
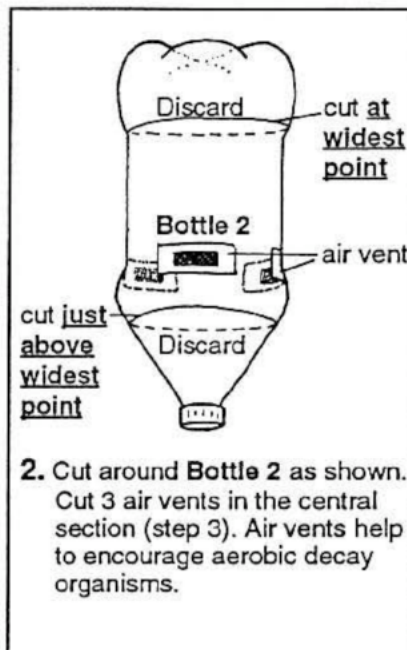
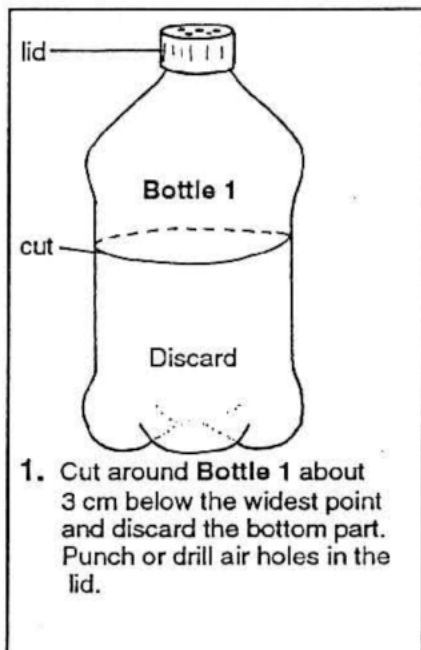


Making a compost column

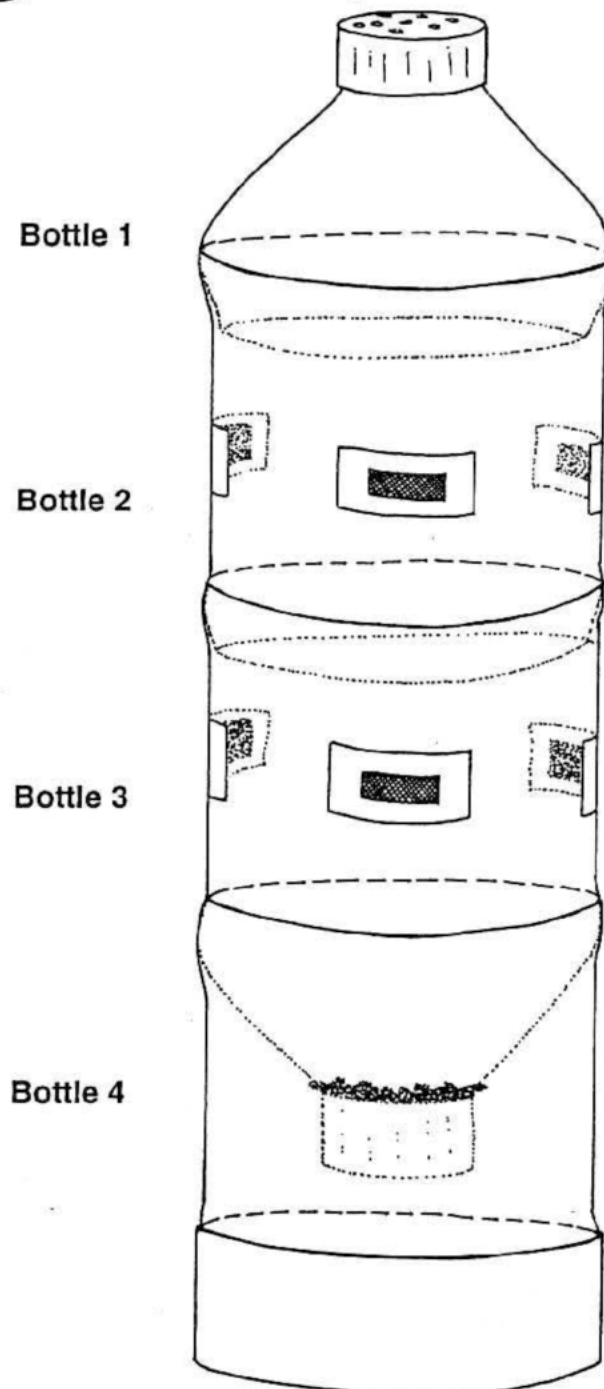
You need: 4 x 2 litre, plastic, soft drink bottles (labels removed); fine net mesh; plastic insulating tape; old tights.

To remove the label cleanly: Fill the bottle with hot water* (not too hot or it will buckle). Screw the cap back on the bottle and in a short time the label should peel off. Empty the water out of the bottle.

***Safety note:** Always be very careful when working with hot water. Sharp scissors have to be used to cut the bottles, if you have a ragged cut-edge on the bottle it may scratch fingers and hands. Care should be taken at all times.



Fit the pieces together to make a complete compost column



Fit each section of bottle **inside** the section below it. This reduces the chance of algae growing in the area where the bottles join.

Use your compost column to find out which materials are biodegradable. Examine the column every day using a hand lens and keep a record of what you see.

If you chop things up before putting them in the column does this make any difference to what happens?

Is there a difference in what happens if the material you put in the column is wet or dry?

Do you have a liquid collecting at the bottom of the column? If yes, what colour is it and what could you do with it?