Organic Matter Decomposition Experiment

Group number: _____

Group name:_____

Students: _____

Concepts:

- Organic Matter: organic compounds that come from the remains of once-living organisms, such as plants and animals.
- Decomposition: Biological process carried out by soil organisms transforming organic matter into nutrients available for plants and animals.
- Biodegradable: material that can be decomposed by living organisms in a short period, thus transforming it into nutrients for other living beings.

Methodology:

1. Weigh and record the original weight of each material with decimals in grams (0.01 g).

2. Select an area of the yard where to bury the materials and note the characteristics of the ecosystem.

3. Dig a hole for each material with a trowel, place the materials. The materials will be buried to a depth of approximately 10 cm.

4. Label each material with an identification plate to remember in a few months where we buried them.

5. Cover each material with the excavated soil.

6. Record the date the materials were buried.

7. Wait at least 3 months, letting the soil fauna feed on our materials.

8. Dig up and weigh each material with decimals in grams (0.01 g), noting the weights and the difference in weights: Final weight – Initial weight = Decomposed weight

9. Record the date on which the materials were unearthed.

10. Cover the holes and remove the plates. Do not leave garbage in the area.

Results:

Initial date: Final date: Ecosystem:

Material	*Initial weight (grams)*	*Final weight (grams)*	*Decomposed weight (grams)*	*Observations*
1.				
2.				
3.				
4.				
5.				