

Decomposition Time Activity

Most of our “stuff” will be here long after we are gone. Match each item on the left with the length of time you think it takes to decompose if it were just lying out on the ground. Remember that these numbers are just estimates; no one knows for sure how long it takes for some of these items to decompose. Additionally, some items need light, moisture, or bacteria to help with decomposition. If these items are buried in a landfill it could take 10-20 times longer to decompose.



- A.) 10 years
- B.) 100 years
- C.) 450 years
- D.) 1-5 years
- E.) 2-5 weeks
- F.) 500 years
- G.) 50-80 years
- H.) 1,000,000 years
- I.) 200-500 years
- J.) 10-20 years