**Step 1:** Watch the “Lifecycle of a Banana” video: <http://youtube.com/watch?v=4vV5tn4gNNQ&feature=youtu.be>

**Step 2:** In the boxes below, create a comic strip to tell the story of a banana peel turning into compost. Use the captions below as a guide.

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| **The banana is eaten!** | **The banana peel is placed in the green bin.** | **The banana peel in the green bin gets picked up by a waste collection truck.** |
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| **The truck drops off the banana peel at the Composting Facility. It takes one week for the peel to break down.** | **The decomposed banana peel is taken to the Compost Curing Facility and laid out in rows to finish composting in another 8 weeks.** | **The banana peel has turned into finished compost! The compost can now be used to plant new fruits and vegetables.** |

**Key Definitions:**

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| *Environment* | All the surrounding living and non-living things found in nature, such as animals, plants, rocks, water, etc. |
| *Compost* | Nutrient-rich soil made from decayed materials that were composted |
| *Compostable* | Organic material that can break down and rot |
| *Composting* | The process of breaking down compostable materials into compost |
| *Decomposer* | Insects, fungi, and bacteria that eat and break down organic waste |
| *Decomposition* | The process of rotting, break down, and decay |
| *Garbage* | Waste that cannot be recycled, composted, or reused |
| *Landfill* | A large area where all the garbage is piled and buried |
| *Nutrients* | Substances in food and soil that keep animals and plants healthy and growing |
| *Recycle* | To use materials from old waste items to make new items |
| *Reduce* | To use less of something  |
| *Reuse* | To use something over again and over again |
| *Vermicomposting* | Using worms in composting to break down and recycle organic waste |
| *Waste* | Unwanted or unusable items that are disposed of in the garbage, recycling, or organics bin |

**Take Action!**

Here are 3 simple actions that YOU can take to reduce your waste and your impact on the environment.

1. If you have a green bin at home, pack your food waste in a reusable container in your lunch bag and bring it home to compost.
2. Pack your lunch in reusable containers.
3. Teach your friends and family about using a green bin.

What are some other ways you can practice to reduce, reuse, and recycle to create less waste?

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