



# What Goes Around, Comes Around: Educating Children on the Composting Cycle

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## Background and Context:

- Around 60% of municipal waste goes to landfills and is expected to grow to 70% by 2025.
- There is a lack of accessibility to knowledge on proper composting habits in schools, or due to COVID restrictions.
- Children learn best in their developmental years, therefore that is the best time to introduce the importance of proper composting habits.

## Research Question:

- What are attributes of successful self-directed learning regarding farms and composting?

## Significance:

- Landfills release toxic materials into the ground, and emit greenhouse gases into the air that will harm future generations.
- It is important for children to form proper composting habits at an early age, as this is when they learn the most.
- With lack of composting education included in many school curriculums, children need another way of getting this information.

## Acknowledgments:

I would like to thank Maggie Brown and Leah Rubinsky. I would also like to thank my family and friends for all their support.

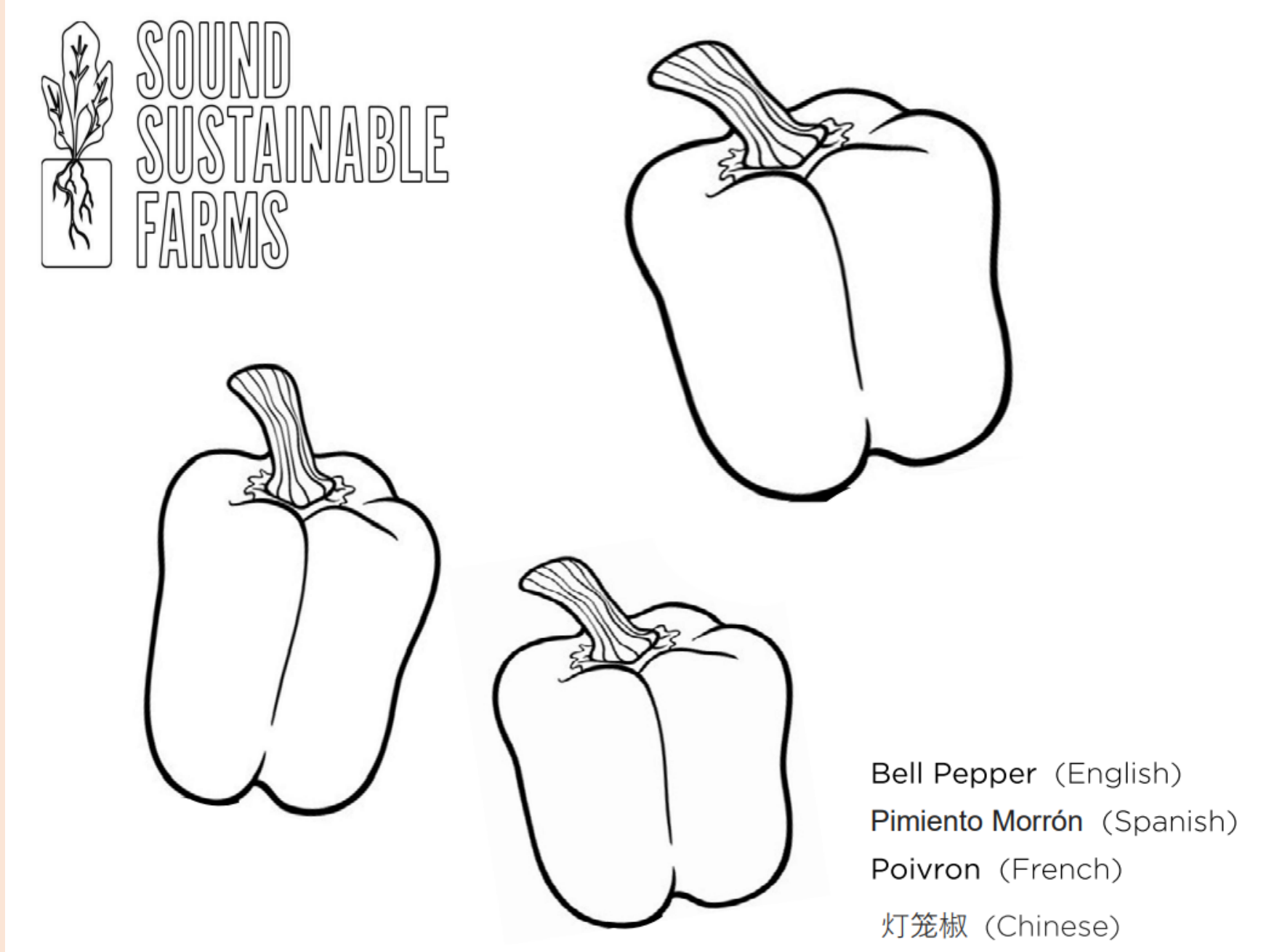


Figure 1. Example of an easier material provided on the survey

## Internship/Methods:

- I worked with Cedar Grove to create educational materials to be put on the Sound Sustainable Farms website.
- I compiled materials into a survey that was sent out to people who are around children. The survey asked respondents to give their opinions on how interactive/informative they found the materials.

## Results:

- I received responses from people considering large age range of children (0-2 years, to 15+ years). More interactive materials were the more popular choice, depending on skill level.
- Respondents were asked to choose their favorite material (Figure 2). The highest ranked one was the Potato Stamp Activity (Figure 3), which is the most interactive.
- Respondents asked for more information to go in conjunction with indoor activities, as well as some options for outdoor activities.

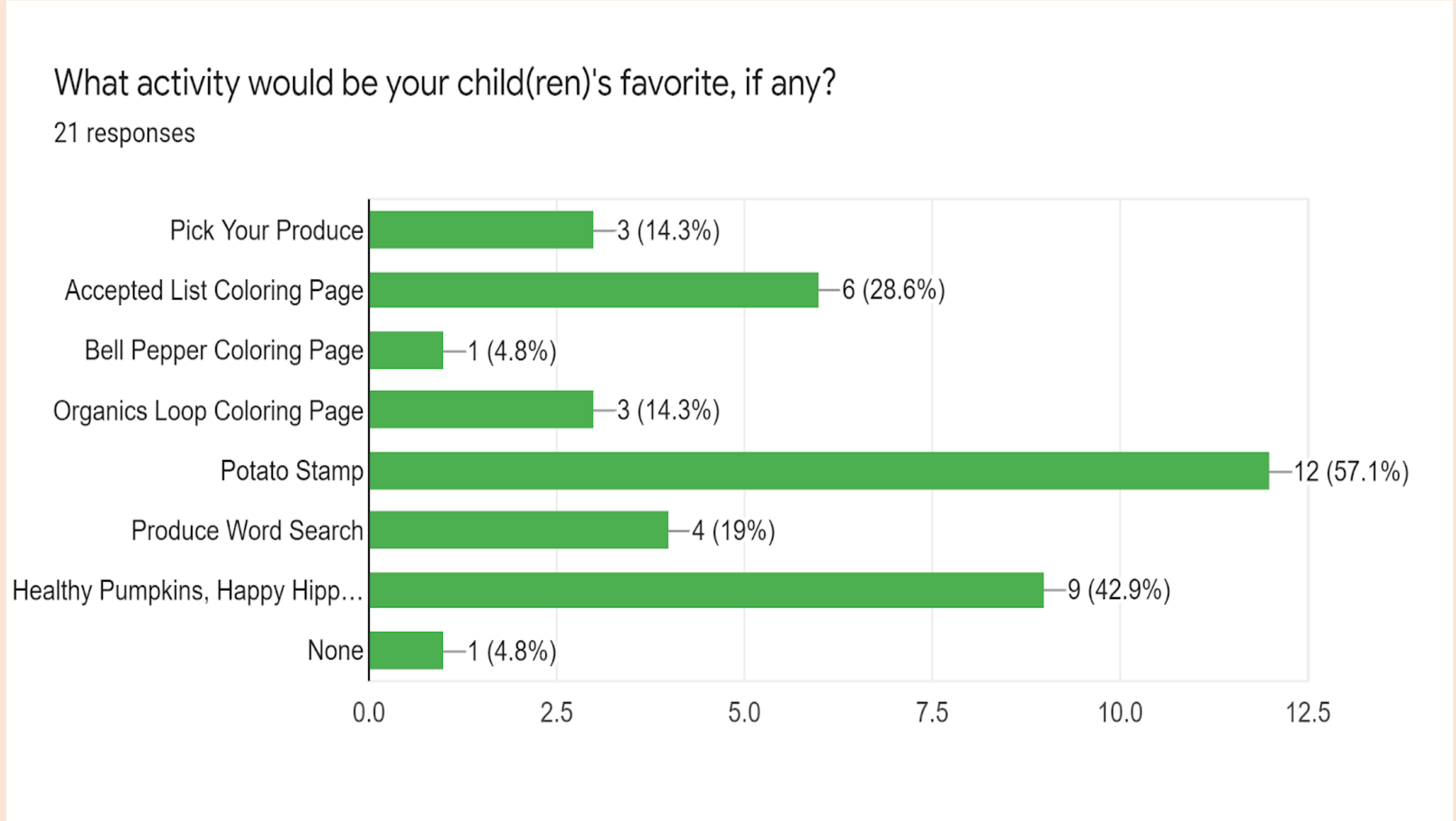


Figure 2. Respondents picked their favorite educational material.



Figure 3. Example of an advanced material provided on the survey.