

University of Northern Iowa

UNI ScholarWorks

---

Science Education Update Conference  
Documents

Science Education Update Conference

---

3-31-2023

## Blatticomposting in the Classroom with NE Iowa area school districts

Alex Holden

*Let us know how access to this document benefits you*

Copyright ©2023 Alex Holden

Follow this and additional works at: [https://scholarworks.uni.edu/sciedconf\\_documents](https://scholarworks.uni.edu/sciedconf_documents)



Part of the Science and Mathematics Education Commons

---

### Recommended Citation

Holden, Alex, "Blatticomposting in the Classroom with NE Iowa area school districts" (2023). *Science Education Update Conference Documents*. 57.

[https://scholarworks.uni.edu/sciedconf\\_documents/57](https://scholarworks.uni.edu/sciedconf_documents/57)

This Slideshow is brought to you for free and open access by the Science Education Update Conference at UNI ScholarWorks. It has been accepted for inclusion in Science Education Update Conference Documents by an authorized administrator of UNI ScholarWorks. For more information, please contact [scholarworks@uni.edu](mailto:scholarworks@uni.edu).

**Offensive Materials Statement:** Materials located in UNI ScholarWorks come from a broad range of sources and time periods. Some of these materials may contain offensive stereotypes, ideas, visuals, or language.



# Blatticomposting in the Classroom

Alex Holden



# Blatticomposting

Not all cockroaches are the same. The species, *Blattica dubia*, used:

- Cannot fly or climb the glass to escape
- Produce little to no smell that is often associated with composting
- Can be used as food for a number of classroom pets
- Are resilient to changes in their environment
- Prefers drier environment (makes pest issues almost nonexistent)



<https://reptilianostra.com/product/dubia-roaches/>

# Why Cockroaches Over Worms?

Composting with worms is particularly well-known and has been incorporated into many classrooms to emphasize the food chain and educate on life cycles. Cockroaches perform the same benefits as worms, but break down food scraps at a much faster rate, allowing a focus on the science of composting. They are able to eat a handful of scraps in one day!



<https://source.colostate.edu/the-science-of-composting-and-how-to-do-it-from-home-this-summer/>

# We Have Been Able to Provide:



## Materials

- Glass tank
- Cockroaches
- Egg Crate
- Heater
- Water Bowl
- Rocks
- Tank Cover

## Lessons

Aligned to Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) and often cross-curricular. These are currently being formatted into a curriculum!

## Support

My colleagues and I troubleshoot issues, clean tanks, and teach lessons. The only thing the class has to do is feed the cockroaches!