



Earth Worms

Picture It!

Check out these pictures of the earthworms and their habitat!



Earthworms

What's the gist?

- Earthworms are the “tillers of the soil.”
- The earthworm tunnels through the soil using its segmented muscular body and bristle-like structures called “setae” to grip the soil, as it burrows deep into the dirt.
- The tunnels that earthworms make aerates the soil, increasing the amount of air as well as the amount water, and nutrients in the soil. Earthworms are decomposers.
- They breakdown organic material including leaves, vegetables, dead animals, and grass.
- As they eat, they digest the food and produces waste material, aka poop, called “castings.”
- The castings are made up of finely ground up organic material and is great fertilizer for the soil.
- You can even buy bags of earthworm castings to add to your soil to make it healthier and more fertile.
- Other important decomposers found in the soil are bacteria, fungi, and insects like the doodle bug.
- If you have ever picked up an earthworm, you know they are slimy to touch.
- The slime or mucus allows them to breathe.
- They live in moist soil, and they will die if their skin gets dry.
- The earthworm has a band-like structure called a “clitellum” that produces an “egg cocoon.”
- The earthworm deposits eggs into this structure and transfers it into the soil.
- Earthworms do not have eyes, but they have light receptors that can sense light or dark.
- They do not have ears, but they can sense vibrations.

Learning Links

Take a look at these materials to further your experience!

Read a story, Listen to a story, Take a tour here: <https://bit.ly/30v3yAQ>

Worms Are Wonderful: Elementary Education. All about earthworm structure and life cycle.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-zc_1vjLnl

Worms-Invertebrate animals for Kids-Natural Science for Kids:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kWb6HIBhkfQ>

This is What Happens When You Put Earthworms in Your Garden:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SxIBIAZmeal>

How do Worms turn Garbage into Compost:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2Pa1FwmKZcQ>

Story online: Diary of a Worm by Doreen Cronin: (kindergarten/elementary)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9y6Mtll5b0w> Willy the

Worm by Christianne Jones: preschool: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MG9XGAoVb2s>

National Geographic for Kids:

Earthworms: <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/invertebrates/earthworm/>

Activity Corner

Check out these awesome activities for an enriching learning experience!

In Our Garden: Vermiculture (Worm Composting) with Kids!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t3s9US4cl20> Worm Observation:

Make a small worm farm and observe their activities:

<https://www.sciencebuddies.org/stem-activities/earthworms-burrowing#instructions>

Earthworm Watch Conservation Activities for Families:

<https://www.earthwormwatch.org/conservation-activities>

Journey North Citizen Science:

<https://journeynorth.org/worm/index.htm>

Earthworm Migration: Earthworms migrate in the soil.. Track earthworm migration in your backyard and help scientists understand conservation.