

Worms are Wonderful

7th Grade Science

Abernathy, Belisle, and Kinney



Worms are Wonderful

Here are several activities you can do to learn about why worms are wonderful.

1. A worm's worth

This is a worm basic information page. It will help you understand the importance of worms. (see the next page)

2. Watch the clip: Worms are Wonderful

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-zc_lvjLnl

3. Diggin' Decomposers (worms)

- Go and dig in your backyard and look for worms.
- Print the attached page or make your own with a piece of notebook paper. Then make observations about them.

4. Edible Worms

In 7th grade we do several activities that are sometimes silly and we say, "in the name of science, lets..." So in that same spirit, "in the name of science you may need to eat some gummy worms." As you eat them, can you identify their exterior structures?

5. Watch a Worm Dissection

Click on this link and you can watch a worm dissection.

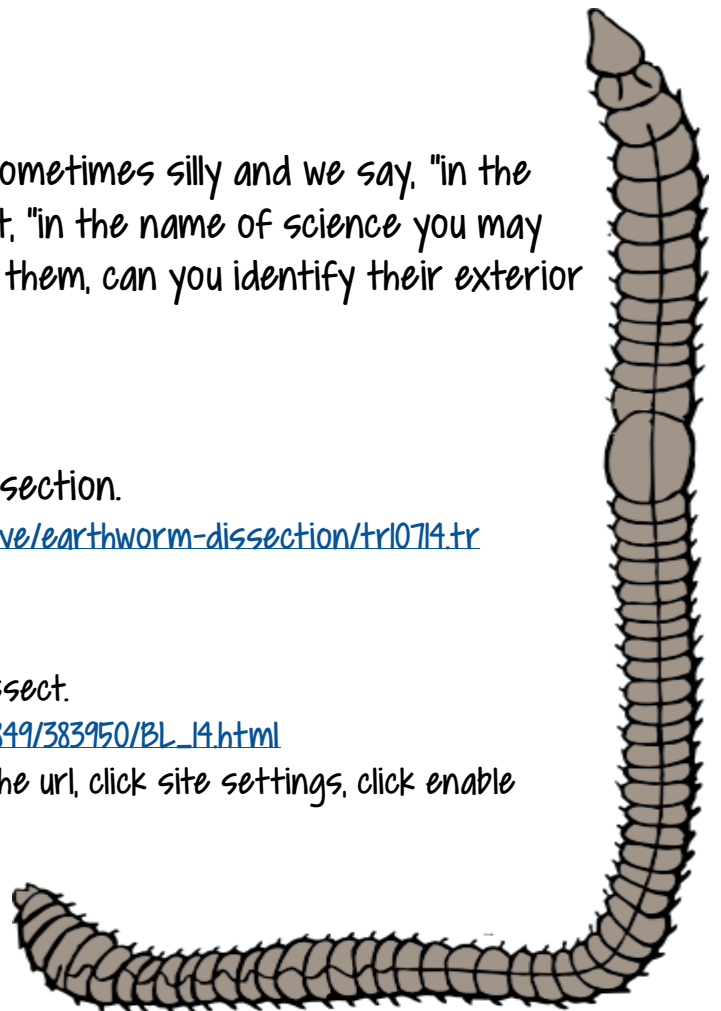
<https://www.carolina.com/teacher-resources/Interactive/earthworm-dissection/tr10714.tr>

6. Interactive Worm Dissection

You can dissect a worm virtually. Use this link to dissect.

http://glencoe.mheducation.com/sites/dl/free/0078802849/383950/BL_14.html

**If it will not load because of Flash, click on lock in the url, click site settings, click enable flash, then reload the page.



Activity #1

a worm's worth: HOW EARTHWORMS HELP THE GREEN GRASS GROW

Whether you call them nightcrawlers, rainworms, angleworms, earthworms, or just worms, these little wrigglers contribute to healthy, beautiful lawns in a variety of ways. Learn more about these often unseen creatures, and how you can use them to benefit your lawn.

they break up thatch

THATCH IS A ROUGH, DENSE LAYER OF MATTER (DEAD GRASS, STEMS, AND ROOTS) THAT BLOCKS THE FLOW OF WATER AND NUTRIENTS.



It will be difficult to deny the probability that every particle of earth... has passed through the intestines of worms.

- CHARLES DARWIN



5x
MORE NITROGEN IN SOIL WITH WORMS

they eat nematodes

NEMATODES ARE PARASITES THAT FEED ON GRASS ROOTS. UNCHECKED, THEY CAUSE YELLOWING, WILTING, AND BARE PATCHES.



they help water flow

THE TUNNELS THEY MAKE BREAK UP THE SOIL AND PROVIDE A PATH FOR WATER TO FLOW AND REACH ROOTS EASILY.



7x
MORE PHOSPHATE IN SOIL WITH WORMS

they eat other pests

BY REDUCING THE NUMBER OF HARMFUL BACTERIA, FUNGI, AND MICROBES, WORMS INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF BENEFICIAL MICROBES.



11x
MORE POTASSIUM IN SOIL WITH WORMS

they fertilize the soil

EARTHWORM WASTE - CALLED CASTINGS - IS MORE NUTRIENT-RICH THAN THE SOIL THE WORM INITIALLY CONSUMED.



PSST... **NITROGEN, PHOSPHATE, AND POTASSIUM** ARE THE NUTRIENTS REPRESENTED BY THE 3 NUMBERS ON FERTILIZER BAGS.

Worms are the intestines of the earth.
- ARISTOTLE



HELP YOUR EARTHWORMS HELP YOU!

Keep them fed by creating an earthworm pile (a stack of leaves, kitchen scraps, and other vegetation) near your lawn, and by leaving grass clippings in the lawn after mowing. Also, herbicides and pesticides can kill earthworms, so be careful!

PRESENTED BY

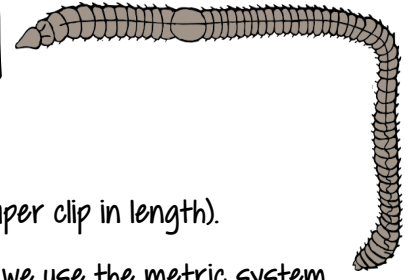
LawnCare.net

SOURCES

WWW.EARTHWORMFACTS.NET/
WORMCOMPOSTINGAN.HUBPAGES.COM/
HUB-EARTHWORM-COMPOSTING

EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/EARTHWORM
WWW.EHW.COM/LIST_6107679-
BENEFITS-EARTHWORMS_.HTML

Worm Data



Use a ruler or make your own measuring device (such as 1 paper clip in length).

If you use a ruler try to use the metric side of the ruler! In Science we use the metric system.

Worm	Length	Describe how it looks	Draw a picture
1			
2			
3			
4			
5			
6			