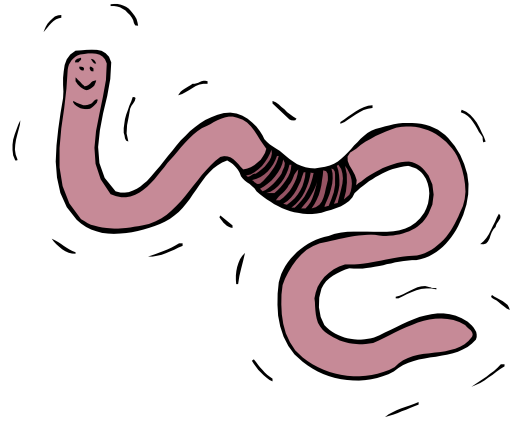


Redworms Eat My Garbage!



Grade Level: 3-Adult

Time Needed: 45-60 minutes

Supplies: Magnifying Glasses/Boxes, Redworms, Dishpans, Calculators

Location: Classroom (Newspaper on the tables or floor will be helpful)

Objective: Students will learn about vermicomposting (composting with worms). The students will fill out a science worksheet about redworms while rotating through four worm stations.

Introduction: Explain the word *vermicomposting*. Discuss the important role that composting will play in addressing the amount of organic waste headed landfills.

The students will rotate through 4 stations, spending 6-8 minutes at each station.

Station I: Excavation Site-What do redworms like to eat? Why don't we use Earthworms? What food items would we exclude?

Station II: Worm Trivia- 4 problem solving questions (calculator needed)

Station III: Up Close & Personal- Worm Anatomy- Does it have teeth? How does it move? Do you find any cocoons?

Station IV: The Finished Product- Look at the finished compost-What should we do with it? Are there other critters in the worm bin?

- Gather together and go over the worksheet.
- For the 3rd & 4th grade students try having them complete the "Worm Food in Your Trash" handout (page 63 from *Worms Eat Our Garbage; Classroom Activities for a Better Environment*). The book is included in the Bremer County Recycling *Tub of Worm Stuff*.
- For classes that will be adopting the worm bin for 3-4 weeks, we will discuss the proper way to WORMSIT. The students will weigh and record the types of food scraps in the Worm Log.

For classes that decide to keep the worm bin for several weeks, you will also get a Tub of Worm Stuff! **The tub contains:**

Food Log for the Worms	Worms Eat My Garbage, book	Compost Critters, book
Wormania, video	Food Processor	Worm Compost
Worm Bin Creatures; Alive Through a Microscope), video		Kitchen Scale (ounces & grams)
Worms Eat Our Garbage; Classroom Activities for a Better Environment, book		
The Worm Café: Mid-Scale Vermicomposting of Lunchroom Wastes		