



Day 24: Worms

Not Just Amazing Dancers



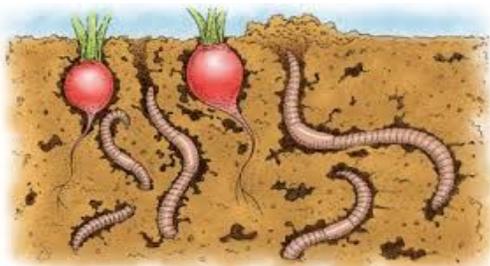
To the left, you got yourself the common earthworm. What can this weird, eyeless, no armed string bean accomplish?

Worms don't just have a dance move named after them (although they are pretty amazing dancers). Worms help the earth in lots of different ways. They are crucial for the ecosystem and help aerate the soil. They are also very important members of the food chain.

Compost

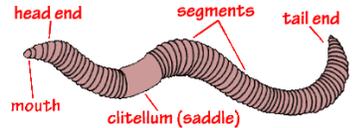
Worms tunnel deep into the ground, mixing all levels of earth together to create a rich blend of soil that is perfect for plants to grow in. Worms produce a slime that is high in **nitrogen**, an ingredient essential for plant growth and development.

You can make a healthy blend of soil by **composting** in your backyard. Compost loves scraps of veggies, egg shells and other organic material that decompose to become worm food. Every once in a while, turn your compost. This brings air into the organic matter and will help speed up the decomposition process.



Worm Facts!

- Worms are a superfamily of invertebrates (no backbone) called **Megadriles**.
- They are able to eat, digest and move using muscles located throughout their bodies.
- Worms lack lungs, breathing through their skin instead.
- Did you know worms are both male and female, they are **hermaphrodites**.



Worms will not come back to life if you cut them up into pieces, despite popular belief.

Fact or Fiction

Determine whether it's worm fact or worm fiction (Answers on the next page)

- 1.) **Q:** There is only one type of worm
- 2.) **Q:** Worms only come out during the day
- 3.) **Q:** They are both male and female
- 4.) **Q:** You can cut a bunch of worms up and it will still live
- 5.) **Q:** Worms have six hearts

Go outside and see if you can make a worm friend! Can you tell where its mouth and bum are? Write down your findings in your nature journal.

Share your Findings or Creations with us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)
Tomorrow's Theme: Video Challenge #3
Time to explore! - Maura Wormmeister

1.) Q: There is only one type of worm

False! There are about 2,700 types of worms globally!

2.) Q: Worms only come out during the day

A worm that comes out at night is called a night crawler

3.) Q: They are both male and female

True! They are hermaphrodites, that means they are both male and female

4.) Q: You can cut a bunch of worms up and it will still live

False! Worms have a system of muscles and organs throughout their bodies, and they need all of those to eat, digest and move.

5.) Q: Worms have six hearts

True!!