

Science Story Adventures



Earthworms

Learning outcomes

- » Students know stories sometimes give plants and animals attributes they do not really have. (Kindergarten – Life Sciences)
- » Students know different plants and animals inhabit different kinds of environments and have external features that help them thrive in different kinds of places. (Grade 1 – Life Sciences)
- » Students know living things cause changes in the environment in which they live: some of these changes are detrimental to the organism or other organisms, and some are beneficial. (Grade 3 – Life Sciences)

From: California's Science Content Standards

Books we read

Yucky Worms by Vivian French

Diary of a Worm by Doreen Cronin

Activities we did

- » We looked at live earthworms and talked about the different parts of their body.
- » We examined different kinds of worm bins and learned about how to compost using worms at home.
- » We gave food to the worms in the worm bin.

Today's craft: Enriching Earthworms



You will need:

- » Earthworms sheet (included)
- » Cardstock
- » Crayons or colored pencils
- » Brown construction paper
- » Scotch tape

Directions:

1. Print out the earthworms sheet.
2. Color in the sheet and add plants that the earthworms are helping to grow.
3. Tape a piece of brown construction paper over the bottom half of the sheet, making it into a flap to lift up and peek at your earthworms.

Want to find out more?

Here is a selection of further resources to explore in the Naturalist Center, in the public library or at home. Please ask if you can't find what you're looking for.

Books

El Ciclo de Vida de la Lombriz de Tierra por Bobbie Kalman.
Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL391 .A6 K3518 2007*

Eye-catching photos and engaging text immerse you in the world of earthworms.

Lowdown on Earthworms by Norma Dixon. Nat. Ctr. Juv.
QL391 .A6 D62 2005

Get the scoop on earthworms, from what they look like to their behaviors. Includes instructions on making a soda bottle wormery and a worm bin.

Wiggling Worms at Work by Wendy Pfeffer.

Explores the world of worms and highlights the important role they play in the environment.

Winnie Finn, Worm Farmer by Carol Brendler.

Winnie loves worms and wants others to realize how amazing they are, too. When the county fair comes around, she finds a way to share her enthusiasm for worms with others.

Worms Eat Our Garbage: Classroom Activities for a Better Environment by Mary Appelhof, Mary Frances Fenton and Barbara Loss Harris. Nat. Ctr. SF597 .E3 A66 1993

A multitude of activities related to earthworms that can be used in the classroom or at home. The activities cover different subject areas from science to literacy to art and can be adapted for different ages.

**Libro en Español*

DVDs

Wild Kratts: Creature Adventures. Nat. Ctr. Media
PN1992.77 .W55 2011

In the episode "Mystery of Squirmy Wormy" the Kratt brothers investigate why worms come to the surface when it rains.

Websites

The Adventures of Herman

Travel with Herman the Squirmin' Worm to learn all about earthworms. Includes fun facts, quizzes and instructions on making a worm bin. Available in English and Spanish.
<http://urbanext.illinois.edu/worms/index.cfm>

BioKIDS: Earthworms and their relatives

An overview of earthworms. Includes photos.
<http://www.biokids.umich.edu/critters/Oligochaeta/>

Composting With Red Wiggler Worms, Canada's Office of Urban Agriculture

Includes a step-by-step photo guide to setting up a worm bin, as well as links to other worm composting resources.
<http://www.cityfarmer.org/wormcomp61.html>

Worm World

Delve into the world of Wendell Worm with videos of earthworms, an interview with Mary Appelhof, author of *Worms Eat my Garbage* and spotlights on Wendell's cousins: Paulette Planaria, Larry Leech and Tommi Tapeworm.
<http://yucky.discovery.com/flash/worm/>

