

Name: _____

Date: _____

WORM

OBSERVATION TERRARIUM

Materials:

Clear 2-Liter Bottle

Clear 1-Liter Bottle

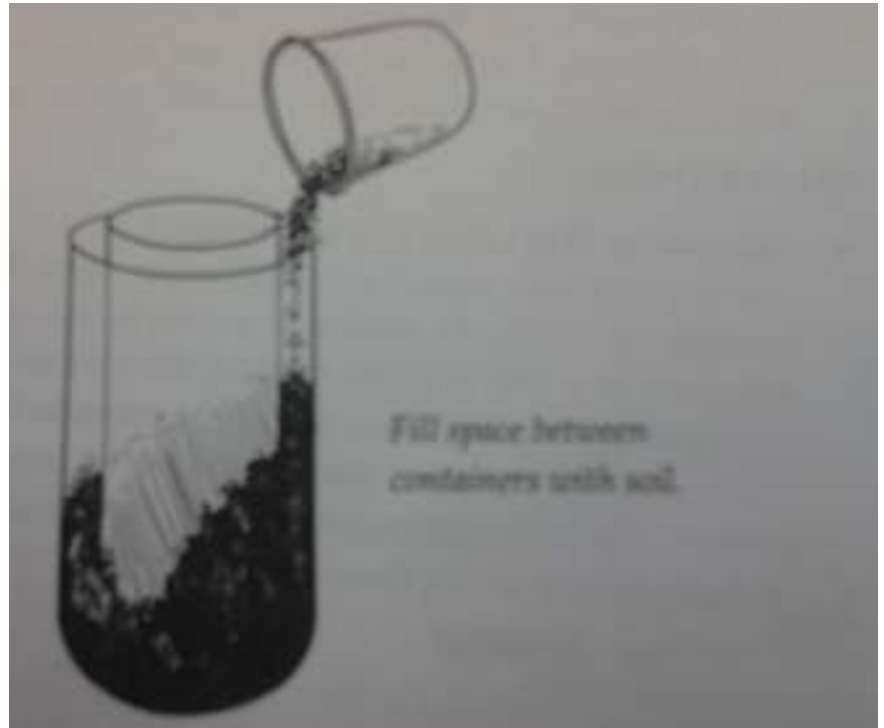
Soil

Sand

Scissors

Newspaper or other recycled material

Worms



Directions:

Cut the tops off each bottle to make tall cylinders.

Fill the 1 liter bottle with newspaper or other material so the bottle will keep its shape.

Put the 1-liter bottle inside the two liter bottle.

Fill the space between the outside and inside walls of the terrarium with alternate layers of soil and sand. Garden soil is best for worms.

Put earthworms into your terrarium and observe what happens.

If worms are not visible from sides, wrap dark paper around the side for a day or two.

Keep soil moist and provide food as outlined in Animal Care Handout and FOSS TE for the worms.

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Earthworm Paths

Have students dip their worms in water and let the wet worms crawl across dry construction paper. Students could observe as a table. Have them compare the earthworm trails to the snail trails the observed in Investigation Two Extensions.

Draw a picture of your observations.

What did you observe?

Name: _____ Date: _____



EARTHWORM



SCHOOLYARD SEARCH

Look for worms after a rainstorm. Discuss what might cause them to come to the ground. Have students dig for worms in the school garden, or put the class' worms in the garden to enrich the soil.

What did you observe today? Draw a picture.

Name: _____ Date: _____

EARTHWORM SCHOOLYARD SEARCH

How many worms were found?

Where were the worms found?

Why do they come out after a rainstorm?

Name: _____

Date: _____

SET UP A VERMICOMPOSTER

The process of using earthworms and microorganisms to transform kitchen garbage into soil is known as vermicomposting. You can work with your class or several classes to set up a system, and compost your lunch scraps!

Adapted from: <http://www.nyworms.com/vermicomposting.htm>

Materials:

Redworms (not nightcrawlers)

Water

Shredded paper (newspaper, paper bags, computer paper and anything non-glossy will work)

Plastic Bin

Drill

Pre-assembled worm composters are also available at most garden centers for ~\$15. You will still need bedding, water, food items, and worms, but the prep is easier.

Set up:

You will need a bin in which to place your worms. A plastic bin that is at least 2 x 2 will work. The worms will need air holes that can be drilled in the side of the bin, toward the top. Some drainage holes can also be drilled on the bottom, and a tray placed underneath the bin to collect water.

The worms need bedding. Fill the bin with shredded paper. The worms need at least 4 lbs of shredded paper. After this is added, you can add two handfuls of soil for roughage. Moisten the shredded paper with water until it is damp but not leaving a pool of water for the worms to drown in. About a gallon of water is sufficient, more if you are using a larger container.

Feed your worms any non-animal food scraps. Limit citrus to control acidity level in the bin. Break the food scraps into small pieces to make it easier for the worms to break it down, and cover the scraps with bedding.

Educational points:

Any of these topics can be discussed while creating/using the composter:

- Care and respect of animals
- Recycling
- Digestion
- Planting

- Helping the earth
- How to compost
- Waste reduction