Activity 15



Learning Outcomes

Students will:

- Understand and know what worms need to live
- Understand how to go about setting up a worm bin.

Explore Your Worm Farm

Skills:

Students will:

- Observe and report
- Collaborate in groups.

Values and Attitudes

Students will:

- Appreciate the ecosystem within a worm farm
- Become enthusiastic about worm farming and recycling.

Materials Needed

- An active worm box that has been going for at least three months
- Newspaper or paper plates
- Damp paper towels
- Magnifying boxes/glasses
- Toothpicks or Q-tips
- Paper and pen for each group
- Worms Inside and Out Information Sheet.

Background Information

The worm farm is an ecosystem that includes worms, bedding, food, worm box animals, moisture, and more. Worms, like humans, need air, water, and food to live. They breathe through their skin and if their skin dries out, they will die. Worms can eat more than half their weight in food every day. They have no teeth but grind the food in their gizzard. Worms don't have eyes – they sense light without seeing it.

Within the worm farm, your students may see mites, beetles, ants, or sowbugs, to name just a few. All these animals are important and play a vital role in recycling organic matter.

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Activity

Students should work in small groups for this activity which can be undertaken as follows:

- Come up with questions about worms as a group.
- Discuss the role of worms in the soil and how they help to recycle.
- Assign a reporter to your group with the responsibility to write down observations and report to the whole group at the end of the activity.
- Take a pile from inside a worm farm on newspaper or a paper plate and with a toothpick or Q-tips examine the pile to see what you find.
- Collaborate to put together a list of everything you see in the pile, such as the different types of food and bugs.

- Your reporter will present back to the class.
- Based on your observations, discuss what worms can and can't eat; and what they need to live on.
- Use the Worms Inside and Out information sheet (Information Sheet A) to find out about worm anatomy.
- Determine how to create a home for worms in your classroom based on your observations.
- Review all findings as a class.





Worms Inside Out



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