



NATURE ACTIVITIES

WORMS ACTIVITY: AGES 2-8

WORMS ARE AMAZING!



Worms break down soil so it is fertile for growing plants so they are 'the gardeners best friend'

There are 34,000 different worms!

The famous scientist Charles Darwin studied worms for 39 years and said 'LIFE On Earth is not possible with out worms'

The biggest worm is the African Giant worm that can grow to 6.7 metres

They have soft segmented bodies that look like rings and hairs that help them move

If worms are accidentally cut in half the part with the saddle (pink fat segment) lives

Worms only eat dead material

They lay eggs that hatch out little worms

They live in the dark and need moist soil to breathe through their skin

One acre of worms can break up 50 tonnes of soil

They can live up to 10 years!

Worms are HERMAPHRODITE each worm is male and female

Worms have lived on earth for 600 million years



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MAKING A WORMERY

Why?

To show how worms break down dead materials to make compost

Time ?

To make about half an hour. Time to observe the worms activity will be a couple of weeks

Equipment

Group: Can be made in big glass jar or old glass fish tank Individual: Make in clean glass jars (note safety keep on flat surface)



- Moist soil
- Sand or and fine gravel
- Old leaves
- Food ,veg and fruit peelings, tea leaves
- Earth worms collected in plastic pots
- Card to make a lid
- Black paper or card
- Scissors
- Elastic band or masking tape to fix lid to jar
- Old spoons and trowels

Method

1. Find a flat surface to work on table or on the ground
2. Put thick layers of soil then sand/gravel until pot is almost full. Leave about 7cms clear to the jar top
3. Children collect worms...tell them to be gentle with the worms
4. Talk about worms how amazing they are!
5. Worms are put in jars and put leaves and food waste on top
6. Make a lid and fix it. Make a few holes in the lid
7. Put the black card around the jar
8. Put the jar in a safe place
9. Check that the soil does not dry out
10. After a couple of weeks. See what has happened to the food. The worms will have pulled it down into the soil and sand and made compost.
11. The worms will need to be returned to the soil after the observations has taken place



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BUG HUNT: ANY AGE

Bug ID Charts & Book

The Woodland Trust Nature Detectives has a great chart to download:

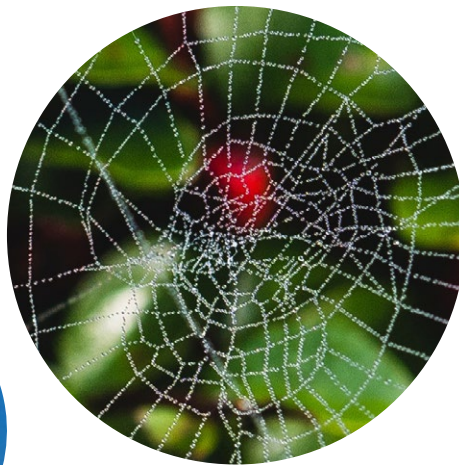
www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/naturedetectives/activities/2015/06/creepy-crawly-spotter-sheet/

- Bugs can be hunted at any time when out in gardens, woods, fields or beach
- Bugs will hide under logs, stones or in hollows of tree trunks. On wild flowers and in bushes and in long grass. Always lift up logs etc very slowly and quietly or the bugs will hide away
- Children need to be told to be gentle when getting them into pots etc
- It is possible to collect in pots, in fabric, and in nets but be very careful, using small brushes or soft pieces of wood
- After looking at them then **PUT THE BUG BACK WHERE THEY WERE FOUND**

Equipment

- There are many types of bug pots/ lens/ microscopic hand lens
- You can also use binoculars 'the wrong way round'!

Have FUN!



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MINI CREATURES FOUND IN SUMMERFIELDS WOOD

DRAGON & DAMSELFLIES

(Odonata)

- Azure Damselfly
- Large Red Damselfly
- Broad-bodies Chaser
- Common Darter
- Southern Hawker
- Vagrant Darter



BUTTERFLIES & MOTHS

(Lepidoptera)

- Comma
- Common Blue
- Gatekeeper
- Holly Blue
- Large Skipper
- Meadow Brown
- Peacock
- Purple Hairstreak
- Red Admiral
- Small Copper
- Small Tortoiseshell
- Small White
- Speckled Wood



BEETLES

(Coccinellidae)

- 2-spot Ladybird
- 7-spot Ladybird
- 10-spot Ladybird
- 14-spot Ladybird
- Cream Spot Ladybird
- Orange Ladybird



MILLIPEDE





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RESOURCES

MOTHS

sussexmothgroup.org.uk
Information about local species as well as Sussex Moth Group and local Hastings branch events

rx-wildlife.squarespace.com
Events and wildlife sightings from Dungeness to Hastings

mothscount.org
Lots of information about moths

nationalmothnight.info
An annual national counting scheme

ukmoths.org.uk
Help identify British moths

hantsmoths.org.uk
Great site to help identify moths and a handy 'What's flying now' guide which lists 100 most common moths for any week of the year

ukleps.org
Dedicated to identification of eggs, larva and pupa of many British moths and butterflies

BUTTERFLIES

butterfly-conservation.org

BUGS

buglife.org.uk

BEES

bumblebeeconservation.org
beewalk.org.uk

BATS

bats.org.uk

LADYBIRDS

ladybird-survey.org

DRAGONFLIES

british-dragonflies.org.uk

AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

arc-trust.org

GENERAL SITES

rspb.org.uk

wildlifetrusts.org

gov.uk/government/organisations/natural-england
Government's adviser for the natural environment in England. Information and policies

plantlife.org.uk
British conservation charity working nationally and internationally to save threatened wild flowers, plants and fungi

woodlandtrust.org.uk

rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/litter
Raising awareness of how littering and rubbish affects animals

LOCAL SITES

sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk
[sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/rye harbour](http://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/rye-harbour)
Forest School, Nature Tots, bird watching, beach cleans etc

rspca.org.uk/mallydams

educationfuturestrust.org
Forest and beach school

EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES & ACTIVITIES

muddyfaces.co.uk
Resources for children

field-studies-council.org
Resource of environmental field studies papers available as pdf downloads. Aimed at non-specialists

rbkc.gov.uk/subsites/wildlife.aspx
The Ecology Centre at Holland Park runs a series of events, activities, educational visits and workshops for schools

woodlandtrust.org.uk/naturedetectives/
Discover exciting wildlife activities to help kids explore nature!

outdoorstudiosarts.com
Artist-led workshops for creative experiential learning that explores environments, landscape, and place

GARDENING ADVICE

rhs.org.uk/science/conservation-biodiversity/.../plants-for-pollinators
Pollinator advice and downloadable lists from Royal Horticultural Society

gardenersworld.com
Practical gardening advice on what to do in your garden and greenhouse

SPOTTER GUIDES, IDENTIFICATION SHEETS & APPS

Helping you to spot & identify wildlife and nature

wildlifewatch.org.uk/spotting-sheets

nationaltrust.org.uk/lists/summer-wildlife-spotter-guides

rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/wildlife-guides/identify-a-bird/

plantlife.org.uk/uk/discover-wild-plants-nature/spotter-sheets

reading.ac.uk/Herbarium/KiteSite/hrb-KSppidguides.aspx

opalexplornature.org/identification

nhm.ac.uk/take-part/identify-nature/

buglife.org.uk/bugs-and-habitats/bug-identifier

ispotnature.org/