



OBSERVING WORMS AT WORK

WHERE TO FIND WORMS

Search for worms in your garden and scoop them with about a cup of soil into a light-colored container or tray for observation. The soil will make worms feel at home and the light or white background will make it easier for you to observe their behavior. If you have a vermicomposting (worm composting) bin you can take worms from your bin.

WORM EXPLORATION

- Moisten your hands and gently hold a worm. Worms breathe through their skin so it's important to keep their skin moist. If it dries out, they can't breathe.
- How does the worm feel?
- Who is your worm?! What do you imagine its worm character is like? Give your worm a name for fun.
- Observe the direction the worm is moving in. Can you tell which end is its head?
- Look closely to find the worm's mouth.
- What do worms eat? Look in the soil or compost material to find a piece of their food.
- Can you see food traveling through the worm's body?

- Do worms like light or dark? Use a flashlight to find out. Make sure you have placed the worm back in the tray with soil before you test.
- Make sure not to overhandle your worms. Put worms back into the garden or compost bin after a short time so they don't dry out.

WORM OBSERVATION

Draw and write what you see.

