

What do worms do all day?

Brief summary:

In this activity make a mini worm farm in a bottle and see exactly how worms move when underground.

You will need:

- Help from an adult
- Large plastic bottle
- Soil
- Sand
- Dead leaves
- Water
- Earthworms
- Plastic food wrap
- Dark paper
- Pencil

What to do:

Step 1. Cut the top off of a large plastic bottle. This might be a bit tricky so ask for the help of an adult if you need.

Step 2. Fill the bottle with layers of soil and sand.

Step 3. Add 4 teaspoons of water to the soil and put dead leaves at the top of the soil.

Step 4. Dig around some soil outside and try to find 2 or 3 earthworms and add them to your soil. Ask for help from an adult first though, especially to make sure you don't dig up any special plants!

Step 5. Cover the bottle with food wrap and poke some holes in it with a pencil.

Step 6. Tape dark paper around the sides of the bottle and place your bottle where it won't receive any direct sunlight.

Step 7. Add 2 teaspoons of water each day to keep the soil damp.

Step 8. After 2 weeks, take the dark paper off. You should see that the worms have mixed up the soil and made tunnels.

Step 9. When you're finished observing your worms, remember to return your worms to the place where you found them.



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Take it further:

Make a worm farm at home to turn food waste into compost for your garden (ask your parent or carer first).

Big questions:

- What other animals live in the soil? Why are these animals important?
- What is a 'decomposer'? What do they do?
- What is a carnivore, a herbivore and an omnivore?

