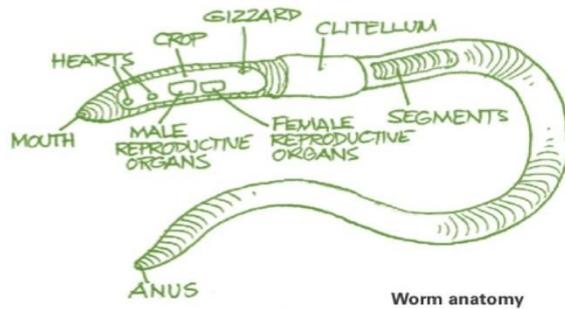


Exploring Tiger worms; activity 1



Tiger-worms are exciting creatures. We are going to have a close look at them. Before we can go on there are a few things that you need to know before you can go on:

Tiger worms have very sensitive skin. It is important when you look at them that:

- You keep them in the shade because they burn easily in sunlight.
- Use a stick to gently handle them because they don't like being touched.
- You wash your hands with soap, singing happy birthday twice, after you had a look.

You will need:

A stick, a tub, a magnifying glass and tiger-worms.

If you don't have a worm farm at hand you can find tiger-worms in: horse manure, cow patties and compost heaps.

Look if you can find: the head, see if you can see eyes, ears or a nose? (Do they have those?) Can you find the bump (or clitellum), the mouth (that's the bit closest to the bump). How do they move? Can you move like a worm? When do they move? Do you think they like the light or are they trying to get away from it? Can you find any eggs like on the picture on the left below.



Worm capsules



Adult worms



Worm clitellum

Tiger worms love most food but they don't like all foods: Draw or cut out pictures from a magazine of foods that worms like a (yum) or don't like (yuk)

Tiger worm menu

	Yuk

Activity 2: Worm food investigations

Aim

To build a mini worm farm and investigate the factors that affect the rate which worms consume food.

Background information

Worms will eat anything organic eventually. However in small worm farms, it is a good idea to avoid certain foods. It is also good to remember that the smaller the pieces of food and the softer the food, the easier it is for the worms to get through.

On the menu

Worms enjoy a variety of foods and will eat shredded, moist cardboard and paper scraps (avoid shiny magazines), coffee grounds, fruit and vegetable scraps, leaves, hair, vacuum cleaner dust and egg shells.

Resources:

- Four, two litre clear plastic drink bottles with the top cut off.
- Moist worm castings
- Water
- Composting worms
- Newspaper
- Large and small vegetable and fruit scraps (i.e. chopped vs. pureed)
- Hard and soft vegetable and fruit scraps (i.e. carrots vs. banana)

Off the menu

It is a good idea to leave out food like citrus fruits, pineapples, onions and garlic. These foods can make the worm farm too acidic and the worms may even try to move out on account of the high pH. Other foods like meat and dairy can be smelly and attract mice, rats and wasps so it is best to avoid them as well.

Instructions

1. Place approximately 5 centimetres of castings or compost in each bottle and add a small handful of worms. You can find these in your compost, or under horse or cow poo.

2. Add approximately 5 centimetres more castings or soil.
3. Carefully dig a small hole right next to the side of the container and bury one type of food item in each bottle. Make sure that you can see the food through the side of the bottle and that the food is completely covered with castings.
4. Add a small amount of water to moisten the worm farm. Wrap the outside of the bottle with a piece of newspaper and place a damp newspaper 'plug' on top.
5. Check the worm farms every day and record observations. Observations should continue until all the food scraps have been converted into castings. The table below is an example of how you could record information.

food	Day 1 observations	Day 2	Day 3
Small pieces of fruit/vegetable			
Large pieces of fruit/vegetable			
Hard fruit/vegetable			
Soft fruit/vegetable			

6. Once the experiment is finished, return the worms to their regular home or make a worm farm using the link in the Waste Wise Schools Facebook page.
7. Consider a few key questions:
 - a. Why do we have worm farms?
 - b. What living conditions do worms like? Why?
 - c. Which foods do worms eat more quickly?

Activity 3: Making a Worm Farm

Follow the link to find out how to make a worm farm at home on you tube.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XdI-2g5Fr4c&feature=share&fbclid=IwAR3UfuHrbAtYPzJrby2-dbnBy9z9rODZmXWwNYyU--S5yM9k5SfgQX7Wj_8

No Worms? Try trenching, follow the link to..six gables sustainability on Facebook

[https://www.facebook.com/sixgablesustainability/posts/669133040566051?_xts__\[0\]=68.ARA0m4hB6vpsgEZW_BDdDFvxaudx9EbwqYv1ECLKp-t1569De0DYgJmLFtxNlbg2xzXinMooyKA5oUe-6APuRd66HCnrIpjVFWb_gY9VIVGMKy58pNDP897VnPZDIvy3D-2iFgeumVdFWEd-rgQoZgAgj-HX3aHiHJMHiAEeovbnCaZcXLGgGIPzR-IwsQftITIQJnPIH3KpyQmkIEqYcJjLAjhGoSQKocHPss4qc-haQp7q8pyh2BKYutM5GQBTFKCURWk9n8cCPA8ArJXTMjdD6eHCn0k92RML-YM2iS79EWAaw1TFSAZBFkg1vEHIYSCvq0VoSIyI-9PCJXkeeAHHAnxVuO8-Q4xKCLc-A89fty1aLZ0rFeTISp1ZAU_dHNJaCFA3_ywFJFccOtBBAA70X2gwhWnlRZhy4UfgD1C-xTzN8M7AdCzGohpUitemyY8dbCEtsaww2yzS5XysBLCfbpNZKTTHII&_tn_ =KH-R](https://www.facebook.com/sixgablesustainability/posts/669133040566051?_xts__[0]=68.ARA0m4hB6vpsgEZW_BDdDFvxaudx9EbwqYv1ECLKp-t1569De0DYgJmLFtxNlbg2xzXinMooyKA5oUe-6APuRd66HCnrIpjVFWb_gY9VIVGMKy58pNDP897VnPZDIvy3D-2iFgeumVdFWEd-rgQoZgAgj-HX3aHiHJMHiAEeovbnCaZcXLGgGIPzR-IwsQftITIQJnPIH3KpyQmkIEqYcJjLAjhGoSQKocHPss4qc-haQp7q8pyh2BKYutM5GQBTFKCURWk9n8cCPA8ArJXTMjdD6eHCn0k92RML-YM2iS79EWAaw1TFSAZBFkg1vEHIYSCvq0VoSIyI-9PCJXkeeAHHAnxVuO8-Q4xKCLc-A89fty1aLZ0rFeTISp1ZAU_dHNJaCFA3_ywFJFccOtBBAA70X2gwhWnlRZhy4UfgD1C-xTzN8M7AdCzGohpUitemyY8dbCEtsaww2yzS5XysBLCfbpNZKTTHII&_tn_ =KH-R)

which will attract the tigers, then transfer them to your new farm!