

# Diary of a Worm

Grade Level: K, 1, 2, 3

Duration: 30 - 45 minutes

Classification: Classroom

Subject(s): Biology, Animal Science

Categories (STEM): Science

Keywords: Anatomy, Observation, Worms

## **Introduction**

- Summary: Learn about worms through hands-on observation in this activity based on Doreen Cronin's book, "Diary of a Worm"
- Description: Students will identify parts of the worm's anatomy based on a diagram and compare different worms. They will use magnifying glasses and scratch paper to make and record their observations.

**Online Resource:** <http://www.readwritethink.org/classroom-resources/lesson-plans/fact-fiction-learning-about-778.html>

## **Materials**

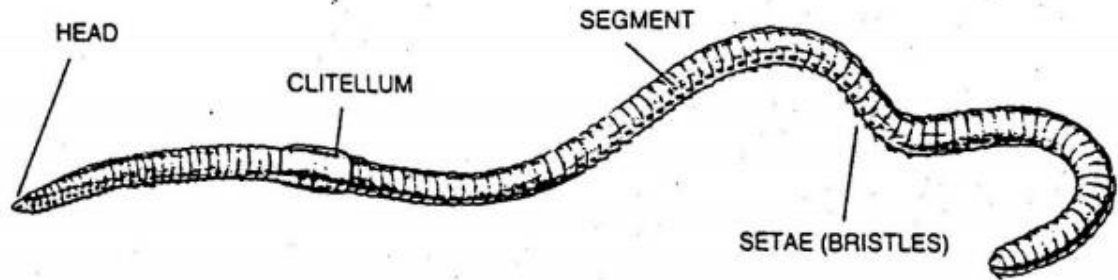
<b>Materials</b>	<b>Quantity</b>	<b>Reusable?</b>
Earthworms (Dancing Rascals are a fun choice)	1 container per class	No
Clear Plastic Cups	1 per student	Yes
Magnifying Glasses	1 per 2-3 students	Yes
<i>Diary of a Worm</i> Storybook	1 per class	Yes
Copy Paper	1 per student	No
Colored Pencils	2 packages per class	Yes

## **Directions**

- Read "Diary of a Worm" by Doreen Cronin.
- After the book, ask the children if they think worms are good or bad for the garden.
- Break students into groups of 2-3 and give them a cup with a few worms in it.
- Ask the children to pull out the worms, watch them, and look at them under the magnifying glass.
- Have students create a diagram of a worm on their paper and write down their observations.
- After the activity, release the worms back into a natural environment.

### Activity Extension

- Trade worms with another group, compare how they behave.
- Label the parts of the worm of your diagram, try to find each part on the worm.



### Discussion Questions

- Worm Facts
  - Worms can grow a new tail, but they cannot grow a new head
  - In one acre of land, there can be more than a million earthworms
  - Baby worms hatch from small cocoons
  - If a worm's skin dries out, it will die
  - Worms have 5 hearts
  - Worms do not have lungs, they breathe through their skin

### What is happening?

- The students will use methods that scientists use to observe a worm.

### Applications:

- Majors
  - Biology
  - Animal Science
- Jobs
  - Farmer
  - Biologist
- Hobbies
  - Gardening
  - Bird Watching - observational skills
  - Composting
- Real world applications
  - Earthworms increase the amount of air and water that gets into the soil, helping the plants to grow