

# Worms

## Adaption:

A worm's diet is decaying matter. Worm's have bristly hairs (setae) to grip soil to move through. They have no skeleton so that they can move freely through the soil. They have streamlined bodies to move through soil with ease.

## Predator(s):

Their predators are birds, insect larvae and other small creatures.

## Habitat:

Worms live in moist soil. They start to dry up from the heat if they are in the sun for a long time. That's why they live in **moist soil only**, because they breathe through their skin.

## Defence:

Worms tunnel into the ground for protection from predators. When a predator grabs them, they can wiggle to get free, but don't always.



(A Red Wiggler up close from our class compost)



(Our class worm compost)

## Sources:

- <https://extension.illinois.edu/worms/facts/>
- <https://www.ecowatch.com/10-interesting-facts-about-earthworms-1881871982.html>
- <https://kids.naturalgeographic.com/animals/earthworms/>
- [greensideup.ie/ten-facts-about-earthworms/](http://greensideup.ie/ten-facts-about-earthworms/)
- <https://www.sciencelearn.org>
- [www.biokids.umich.edu](http://www.biokids.umich.edu)
- Biolgywise
- <https://www.wormfarmguru.com>

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### Non-Native Species Effects on Our Ecosystem:

1. Earthworms are destroying our forest by eating the rich organic layer that helps to feed plants and animals.
2. Worms compete with native decomposers for food.

### But, they also have positive benefits...

1. Worm castings make a good fertilizer so plants grow better.
2. Worms help to increase the amount of air and water going into the soil.
3. They break down organic matter, like leaves and grass that plants can use.

### History of Worms:

All worms are non-native to this area. The most common are red worm, nightcrawler, small leaf worm, small litter worm, leaf worm, red wiggler, super red, and lastly the jumping worm. Worms came from overseas on ships when ships started to come over to America. Soil was added for balance and weight to the bottom of the ships. The soil, which contained the worms, was emptied on the ground so cargo could be added. Even though all worms are non-native does not mean they are always invasive or destructive to the environment.



### FACTS:

- There are approximately 2,700 different kinds of earthworms.
- In one acre of land, there can be more than one million earthworms.
- Did you know that if a worm is exposed to light to long they dry out?
- Worms breathe through their skin and do not have lungs.
- Worms can regenerate some segments/ body parts. Ex: a red wiggler can regenerate its head and tail.
- A worm can eat as much as it weighs each day.