

Hungry worm

Year level

Prep to lower primary with extension activities listed at end of lesson plan.

Lesson description

Teacher joins three large sheets of paper together and draws the outline of a large worm. Students cut out pictures of foods that worms like to eat and paste on to the worm.

In this lesson students will become aware:

- of the types of food that worms like to eat
- that compost worms turn our fruit and vegetable scraps into worm castings and worm juice that help our gardens to grow

Curriculum links

Foundation

V 8.4 Living things have basic needs, including food and water (*Science - ACSSU002*)

V 8.4 Share observations and ideas (*Science - ACSIS012*)

V 9 Share questions, predictions, observations and ideas with others (*Science - AC9SFI05*)

Year 1

V 8.4 Living things live in different places where their needs are met (*Science - ACSSU211*)

V 9 Identify the basic needs of plants and animals, including air, water, food or shelter, and describe how the places they live meet those needs (*Science - AC9S1U01*)

Year 2

V 8.4 People use science in their daily lives, including when caring for their environment and living things (*Science - ACSHE035*)

V 9 Describe how people use science in their daily lives, including using patterns to make scientific predictions (*Science - AC9S2H01*)

Materials

- 3 large sheets of paper
- Scissors
- Glue/paste
- Advertising catalogues and magazines with pictures of food
- Fact sheet: Compost and worm farms (available Council's website)
- Poster: 'What goes in my worm farm of compost bin?' (available Council's website)

Procedure

1. Discuss how compost worms recycle our fruit and vegetable scraps and turn them into worm castings and worm juice. Explain how castings and worm juice (also commonly known as worm tea) are full of nutrients and act as a natural fertiliser to help your plants grow.
2. If possible, show students a working worm farm to let them see what compost worms and a worm farm look like.
3. Explain the types of food that compost worms like to eat and the types of food that they do not like to eat. Worms like to eat shredded paper, eggshells and tea bags and most fruit and vegetables (except for citrus fruits, onion, garlic and chilli). Refer to [Compost and worm farms brochure](#) and [What goes in my worm farm or compost bin?](#) poster for further information.
4. Ask students to look through magazines and catalogues for pictures of food that worms would like to eat and to cut out any pictures that they find.
5. Students then paste the pictures onto worm outline.
6. Once worm is 'full of food' pin or tape the worm up on the wall and discuss all the different sorts of food that the worm likes to eat.

Extension activities

- Students draw their own worms and add written names to pictures of items that worms like to eat.
- Set up a worm farm or farms at school and organise collection of fruit and vegetable scraps to feed them.