

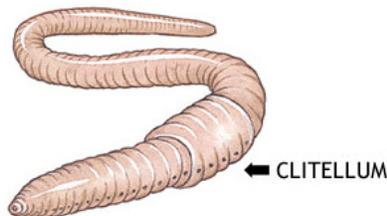
**Happy Valentine's day** from everyone here at REAPS, and especially your worms living in your classrooms. They appreciate all the care and attention you have given them the past few months, and to show how happy they are, see if you can find some baby worms in your bins!

## HOW WORMS REPRODUCE

Did you know what worms are *hermaphrodites*? That means they have both male and female reproductive organs. How cool is that?!

Step 1: Find another worm.

Step 2: Join together and line up clitellum of the two worms to create and fertilize the egg.



Step 3: Make the cocoon! See the little yellow things? Those are the cocoons!



Step 4:

A worm hatches 2-3 weeks later into a tiny white worm, about 13cm long.



Step 5:

Six weeks later, the worms will be able to have babies of their own! That means more worms in your bin!



**Keep up the good work, and don't forget to feed your worms and keep them wet!**

**Pretty soon you will be able to add the castings (worm poo) to soil and make some plants pretty happy.**

Send any questions, art or inquiries to:  
**The Worm Lady c/o R.E.A.P.S Box 444 Prince George, BC V2L 4S6**  
 Ph: 250-561-7327 or email: [thewormlady@reaps.org](mailto:thewormlady@reaps.org)

# REAPS READER



Have you helped the environment today?

## February 2 is World Wetlands Day!

Wetlands are important parts of our ecosystems, and learning about them can help us protect them. Wetlands encompass many different habitats including ponds, marshes, swamps, and peatlands. They are areas where land and water meet and are wet for an ecologically significant part of the year. Wetlands may be temporarily flooded each day as with tidal marshes, or be filled seasonally with water from melting snow. Plants and animals present in wetlands are from land and water habitats making them highly productive environments. Wetlands function as *ecotones*, transitions between different habitats, and have characteristics of both aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems.

Canada possess 24% of the world's wetlands, more than 127 million hectares. 14% of Canada is covered by wetlands, although many original wetland areas have been converted or drained. Wetlands generally are smaller than lakes yet there are huge regions of them. The Prairie pothole region across south central Canada and the United States contains more than four million wetlands and ponds.



This information can be found at:  
[www.aquatic.uoguelph.ca/wetlands/chintro.htm](http://www.aquatic.uoguelph.ca/wetlands/chintro.htm)

## Important Dates

### February:

- 2 World Wetlands Day and Groundhog Day
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 15 National Flag Day
- 18 Heritage Day
- 18-24 Heritage Week
- 23 Seedy Saturday at Exploration Place

## Word Scramble

Put the letters in the right order to complete the sentence!  
 (From [www.epa.gov/safewater](http://www.epa.gov/safewater))

All living things need \_\_\_\_\_ to live.  
 t a w e r

When water evaporates, it travels into the air and becomes part of a  
 \_\_\_\_\_.  
 d l o c u

Less than 1% of all the water on the earth is  
 \_\_\_\_\_ water.  
 s e f r h

We \_\_\_\_\_ water in the liquid form.  
 i k r d n

Check for leaks and save hundreds of  
 \_\_\_\_\_ of water a day.  
 a l l o g n s

You'll save water by taking a quick \_\_\_\_\_.  
 h o w s e r

Wash bikes and cars with a \_\_\_\_\_ and sponge  
 instead of a running hose.  
 k e c b u t



### Tips for a "green" Valentine:

Tell your classmates how awesome they are, but do it in an environmentally friendly way! Try **reusing** household items or **recycled** materials to make your Valentine's cards this year, and make sure to buy **fair trade** and/or **organic** chocolate for everyone!