

Hello, and Happy Holidays! With Christmas break soon approaching it is important to make sure that your worm friends are taken care of. Before leaving for the break make sure that your worms have enough food, as well as making sure that their bedding is nice and fluffed so lots of air can get in and making sure that the bedding is moist like a wrung out sponge. Don't be afraid to include your worms in the holiday spirit by decorating their bin! Have a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Why do we need worms?

As most of you know worms help break down our food waste into castings that can be used as fertilizer, but some of you might be curious about the other roles worms play in the environment and why they're important.

Worms help decompose organic matter such as plant material and other once living organisms. By breaking that material into smaller pieces it makes it easier for bacteria and fungi to break it down even further. The material that is broken down and releases nutrients for surrounding plants. Worms also mix the soil layers, Charles Darwin referred to them as "nature's plough". Mixing the soil is important because it allows organic matter to be dispersed, it also helps aerate the soil and allows water to be absorbed into much deeper roots. All of this improves soil fertility.

Worm Jokes!

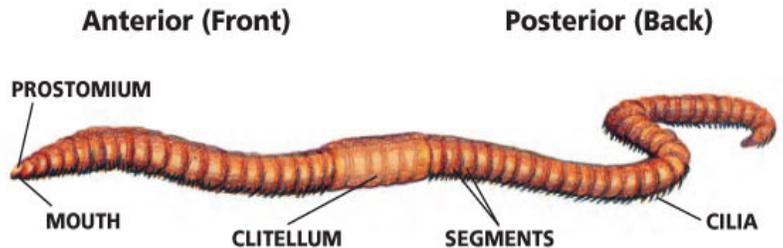
What do you call it when worms take over the world?
Global Worming!

What do you get if you cross a worm and an elephant?
Very big worm holes in your garden!

Why are glow worms good to carry in your bag?
They can lighten your load!

What reads and lives in an apple?
A bookworm!

Adult Red Worm (Eisenia Fetida)



Worm Anatomy

Prostomium is a sensory device that worms use to "feel" their way through the soil since they do not have eyes or ears.

Clitellum produces most of the material secreted to form their cocoons.

Segments each have muscles called setae which allow the worm to move through the soil by contracting and expanding.

Cilia are tiny hairs that cover the worm and help with locomotion.



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