

Hello! To all of you worm lovers, we at REAPS hope you're having an excellent March! We are rolling right along into spring, with it's melting snow and rain showers. With spring we begin moving towards the end of the school year, and that means worm harvests! In the near future it will be time for your worms to be harvested and returned to the REAPS garden for their summer vacation. For more information on worm harvests or to set up an appointment, you can contact the Worm Lady at 250-561-7327 or thewormlady@reaps.org.



A Bit More about Worms...

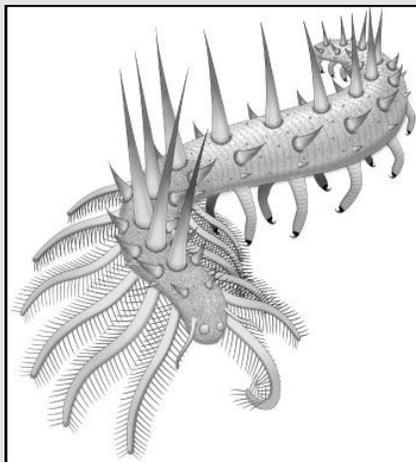
Red wigglers (*Eisenia fetida*) are small red worms who are common on every land mass on Earth. They are used worldwide for vermicomposting. They are very tolerant to fluctuating environmental conditions, and once they reach sexual maturity, produce about 10 babies each week under ideal conditions.



Our Red Wigglers are a very unique worm, as they are the only ones suitable for consuming organic material for vermicomposting. But there are many other types of worms, and some of them are pretty strange looking. Especially the prehistoric ones.

Collin's monster

Another very strange worm from the Cambrian Period, Collin's Monster, has spikes trailing down its back, two antenna-like appendages on its head, six pairs of feathery forelimbs, and nine pairs of spiny rear limbs that each taper to a strong claw. An armoured worm, it is one of the first soft-bodied organisms to wear armour. Remarkably well preserved fossils have been discovered in Southern China, allowing us to better imagine what prehistoric life might have been like.

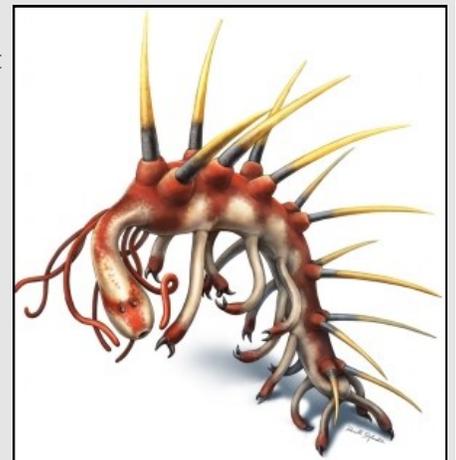


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Hallucigenia

One such worm is known as Hallucigenia, and is from the Cambrian Period. New looks at fossils have revealed just how strange of a creature it was, making the name Hallucigenia rather fitting. It has seven pairs of spines coming out of it's back, seven pairs of flimsy legs with claws at the end, and three sets of small tentacles towards the head. Fossils were found in the Canadian

Rockies, but it took 40 years to realize which end was the head, and which side the legs were on!



Send any questions, art or inquiries to:
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