

Spring is upon us and St. Patrick's Day is just around the corner! The Worm Lady and her wiggly worms are working hard to get the garden ready for the new season. Please make sure that your worms have food (buried in a corner of the bin), adequate moisture (but not too wet), and have recently been fluffed so that they can have a relaxing March Break!

What do you get when you have the **trunk of an elephant**, the **stomach of a bird**, and the **body of a slug**?



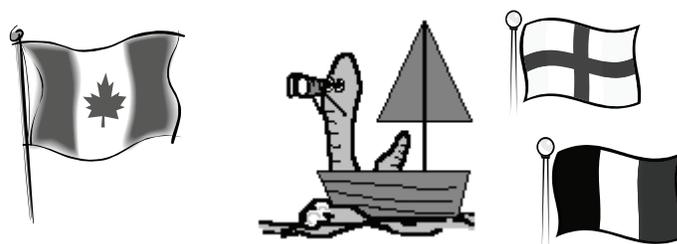
A worm of course!

Believe it or not, worms are much like their animal friends:

Worms have a long, extendable, 'nose' called a *pad*. It is much like an elephant's trunk—they use it to grab food and bring it to their mouths to eat.

Since worms do not have teeth, they must swallow sand to grind up their food. Chickens and ostriches do the same thing, but with large rocks and stones instead of sand.

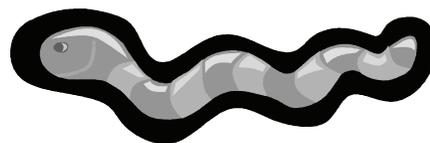
Worms need to wiggle around to move easily through the soil. Like slugs, they do not have bones (skeletons) that would prevent them from moving in all directions.



During the last ice age, the worms of North America could not survive the cold. Therefore, the majority of worms that we now find in Canada originate from Europe as they were brought over in boats with the colonizers. Today, only 18 of the 200 North American species of earthworms live in Canada; only 6 types are native to the country:

- Aporrectodea bowcrowensis
- Bimastos lawrenceae (Mottled Worm)
- Arctiostrotus perrieri
- Arctiostrotus vancouverensis
- Toutellus oregonensis
- Sparganophilus eiseni (American mud worm)

(find out more at [www.naturewatch.ca](http://www.naturewatch.ca))



There are 4 main reasons why earthworms are so important to the Earth and soil:

- improve soil structure
- mix and till the soil
- aid in humus formation
- increase the availability of plant nutrients

Send any questions, art or inquiries to:  
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