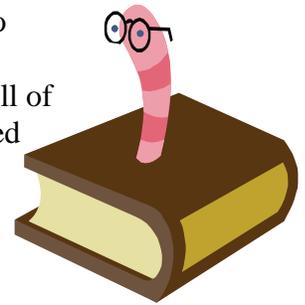
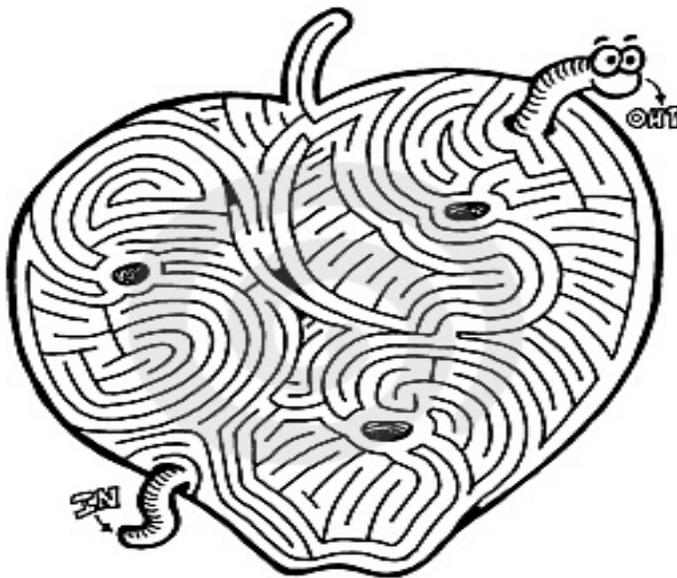


Hello, its Wilma the Worm once again! What a beautiful spring day, its so nice to see all my worm friends surfacing from the long winters nap here at REAPS. You probably have noticed that your bedding is gone and your vermi-compost bin is full of castings. Which is definitely a good sign that your worms are ready to be harvested and brought back to their summer resting area here in the garden. If you have not had the opportunity to harvest your bin, please call and make arrangements with the Worm Lady. The finished casting will stay with your class for use as a fertilizer/soil amendment.



## Can you “DIG IT”?

Earthworms burrow by passing successive waves of contraction and relaxation along the musculature of the body wall. They have no external appendages other than the protrusible setae (bristles that stick out), which are used to anchor the worm firmly in its burrow. Earthworms move along by extending the front end of the body, taking hold of the substrate using the front bristles, then retracting the bristles at the rear of the body and drawing up the rear end.



## Do worms have a Heart?

You bet they do! In fact, a worm has five pairs of hearts! They are shaped like tiny doughnuts around their esophagus (inner throat).



### “Hear” Like an Earthworm

Worms rely on vibrations to “hear.” This phenomenon is quite easy to demonstrate. Have the someone stand on the ground while another person jumps close by. The first person should be able to feel the jump of the second. This activity works best on certain types of ground or flooring. Wooden decks provide the easiest surface to feel vibrations

### “See” Like an Earthworm

Without eyes, worms see using a sense of touch. You can experience this through a simple sensory game. Adults can gather basic natural items, such as small twigs, rocks, and pinecones, and keep them in separate bags. (When collecting items, make certain there are no sharp edges.) Then each person reaches into each bag without peeking, and feel for the item, therefore “seeing” like a worm. Try to guess what the item is after experiencing it using only the sense of touch.

Send any questions, art or inquiries to:  
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