November 2009 **CASTINGS** Issue No. 127

Hello worm loving friends, hope you all had a fun and safe Halloween. Now that the weather is getting colder your worms still need to stay moist and cool, don't forget to fluff the bedding because it allows more oxygen into the soil. Even though worms do not have a nose they still breath through their skin and oxygen is very important to everyone and

Who are worms related to?

The cladistic overview of red wrigglers. Cladistics is a way of classifying organisms based on shared ancestry.

Kingdom– Animalia– members of this kingdom are eukaryotic (their cells have true nuclei), multicellular (more than one cell), and hetrotrophic (eat other organisms for energy). Humans are in this kingdom.

Phylum– Annelida– organisms in this group are segmented worms, examples are leaches, tubesworms.

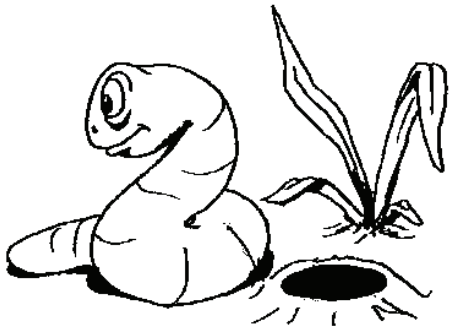
Class- Oligochaeta– this name refers to few bristles, there are about 4 per segment.

Order- Opisthopora

Family– Lumbricidae

Genus– *Eisenia*

Species–*fetida*
(The Latin name for red wrigglers *Eisenia fetida)*



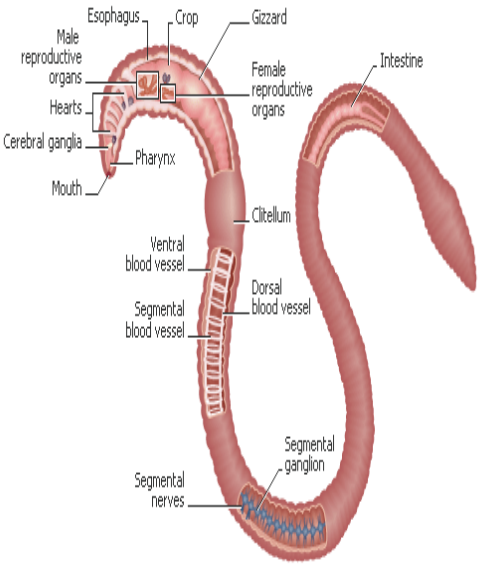
Take a look at a worm

1. Place a worm on a clear plastic lid. Mist the worm with water to keep it's skin moist.
2. Shine a flashlight through the bottom of the lid on the worm. Look at the worm through a magnifying glass and identify the worms hearts and intestines.
3. Return the worm to its bin.
4. Draw the worm and label its parts.

** Remember that worms are very sensitive to light, so only shine the light on them for a few seconds at a time.**

WHY USE RED WRIGGLER WORMS?

Red Wrigglers are the best choice for vermicomposting because they can tolerate the widest range of environmental conditions and fluctuations. They are also common in almost every landmass, so we don't need to worry that we are introducing a harmful alien species.



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