

Classroom Connection:

Building A Worm Habitat



Standards and Objectives

Objectives: Students will design an experiment in the worm habitat to learn more about the behavior of worms underground. Students will record observations and draw a model of their experiment.

LS4.D: Change in the habitat effects the animal living there

Practice 1 & 3: Ask questions and investigate changing variables (ex: amount of food). Predict outcomes and collect data.

Teacher Directions

Pre-Prep: Before you begin, put a cup of water in the bag of peat moss and let it rest for about 10 min. Squeeze out excess moisture until it feels like a slightly damp sponge.

Building The Habitat:

Note: Don't do this on your own time. Share the building with the students and discuss the steps and encourage them to ask questions and make comparisons about the habitat.

1. Place the PVC tube in the center of the cup. This should remain empty as you fill the cup.

(Rationale: The holes in the PVC pipe allow water to come in and out of the holes and keep your worms' soil damp, the pipe allows the worm's burrowing space to be close to the cup so we can observe)

2. Surround the bottom with the stoness
3. Place a small layer of sand at the bottom

(Rationale: Worms need sand for digestion. It sits in the gizzard and helps them grind ad break down their food. Sand also helps us to see their paths in the jar)

4. Place a layer of wet peat moss

(Rationale: Peat Moss is decayed wood and leaves. It is much like dirt outside, but this will help hold the moisture the worms need)

5. Another small layer of sand
6. Top it off with peat moss
7. You Did it! Time to let the worms meet the new home.
8. Cover the habitat with paper bag

(Rationale: worms like the dark, and won't burrow close to the glass if there is not a bag.)

Classroom Inquiry

Now it's time to make this an experiment all your own! The class can discuss what they want to feed the worms. Encourage students to record their results on the student handout!

Here are some suggestions to test:

- Small bits of fruit
- Cheese (they won't like this, it's fun!)
- Bread Crumb
- Lettuce
- Coffee grounds
- Orange peels

Note: Be sure to sprinkle water on the habitat each day. It should stay damp.



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Name: _____

Question to Investigate: What did your worms like most?



Notes:

