Earthworm
**IDENTIFICATION CLUES**

- long and tubular; variable in length
- body is segmented, legless and covered with slimy mucus
- Each segment has 4 pairs of tiny bristles to help the earthworm move.
- swollen section called the clitellum at the head end

**Where to Look:**
Earthworms stay in the moist soil during the day and emerge at night. They live in burrows. In winter, they hibernate deep in the soil often forming a ball with other worms.

**Who Eats It?**
Birds, reptiles, small animals, insects, centipedes and parasitic organisms eat earthworms.

**What It Eats.**
Earthworms eat mostly organic matter in the soil. They get some of their food as they tunnel and eat the soil. They digest the organic matter and excrete the rest (called castings). They will also eat leaves.

**Did You Know**
Some earthworms can live up to 10 years. If cut or injured, they can regenerate segments as long as the middle section remains intact.

**Role in the Ecosystem**
Earthworms are soil aerators and recyclers. Also, as they dig tunnels they loosen and mix the soil.