Worming Around in the Soil

WORMFORMATION

- The shape of a worm is long and thin.
- It has a soft body.
- It has no bones.
- The body of the worm is made of lots of tiny rings with grooves between them.
- Each of these rings is called a **segment**.
- Each segment has bristles called **setae**.
- A worm has no arms, or legs, or eyes.
- The **tail** end of the worm is called the posterior.
- The **head** end is called the anterior.
- There is a flap over the worm’s mouth. It is called the **prostomium**.
- The band around the worm is called the **clitellum**.
- A worm has 5 pairs of **hearts**.
- A worm has **intestines**.

(Worm Anatomy)

http://www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/worms/anatomy/anatomy7h1.html
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Worms are important workers in the Soil Department. Have you ever wondered how worms do such good work decomposing? Find a worm to investigate and answer the following questions. Remember, be gentle with your worm and put it back in the soil when you are finished; it is a living creature.

1. Describe a worm’s natural habitat. _______________________________

2. Can your worm move backwards? ________________________________

3. Can your worm move fast? ________________________________

4. What happens when you touch your worm? ____________________

5. What does your worm do when it comes to a rock? ________________

6. What does it do when it comes to a grape? What about a slice of pickle? ________________________________

7. Draw a picture of your worm and label some of its parts using the “WORMFORMATION” on the following page.

8. If you place your worm on a clear plastic plate and hold a flashlight under it, you can see the organs inside your worm. Draw those organs on the outline of your worm above.

Write any questions you have about your worm below.
I wonder...____________________________________________________
RUI – Add Worm Composter publisher doc sign here!