

Worm Experiment

Grade Level: 2nd

Season: Fall/Winter

Larger IGS Unit: Soil

Essential Question: Where does soil come from?

Objective: Students will perform an experiment to answer questions they have about worms. Students will go through the scientific process to answer these questions.

Materials:

Worms

Shredded paper

Spray bottles

Empty clear recycled containers (tennis ball containers, plastic ice cream containers)

Rubber bands

Fabric to cover top of container

Black construction paper

Food scraps

Science journals/notebooks

Introduction:

KWL sheet about worms, or review what students know about worms.

Ask why students think experiments are important for scientists.

Explain the scientific process:

- 1) Ask a question
- 2) Construct a hypothesis
- 3) Conduct an experiment
- 4) Analyze the results
- 5) Make a conclusion (and perhaps find more questions!)

Students come up with questions they have about worms. Write down the questions on the board.

Students choose one question, and write that question in their science journal/notebook.

Ask students how they think we could come up with answers to these questions.

Introduce experiment.

Activity:

Set up different stations for students to build their own worm bin. Ask students to describe the needs of a worm: food, air, water, shelter, darkness

- 1) Worm bin (write your name on a piece of tape and place on top)

- 2) Add shredded paper (fill half of container)
- 3) Spray down shredded paper with water
- 4) Add food scraps (fill half of container)
- 5) Add worms (5-10 worms per container)

Note: if students finish earlier than others, they can take a closer look at their worms. Ask students to find the biggest/smallest worm, worm eggs, worm head vs. tail. Identify colors, textures, shapes, sizes.

Wrap up/ Assessment: Each student shares their hypothesis, and writes it down in their science journal.

Extensions:

Observations and documentation

Worm biographies