

Worm Introduction

Grade Level: 2nd

Season: Fall/Winter

Larger IGS Unit: Soil

Essential Question: Where does soil come from? What do worms need to survive?

Objective: Students will understand that worms help to make soil through digesting *organic matter*. Students will see the process from beginning to end through the worm bin/apartments.

Materials:

Worm bin/apartments

Shredded paper

Watering cans/spray bottles

Finished worm castings

Food scraps

Gloves

Plastic spoons or tools for digging through worm bin

Introduction:

KWL sheet about worms.

“Where does soil come from?”

“How do you think worms can help us make soil?”

Activity: Set up different stations for students to do scientific observations

- 1) Worm bin – bins of finished worm castings. Students can scoop out finished worm castings into another container or into the watering can for compost tea
- 2) Worm bin – empty bins. Students can fill the empty bins with food scraps and shredded paper.
- 3) Worm observation – students can take a good look at worms, their sizes, shapes, movements, etc.

Wrap up/ Assessment: Each student shares one observation from the worm bins – one thing they didn’t know already. Add to the KWL sheet.

Extensions:

DIY worm bin to take home using recycled containers (ie. Tennis ball containers, ice cream containers)

Water the garlic beds with compost tea.

Use compost tea aerator kit to brew.