

Worms

Worms are not nice to look at but they are very useful. They have been around for a very long time, much longer than people. There are thousands of different kinds of worms. Some of them can grow to be very long but others are really quite small and you would need to use a magnifying glass to see them. Worms are found in gardens, underneath the grass and in the soil. Worms keep the soil soft by digging in it. People want to have worms in their gardens to help their plants grow. Worms are slimy and slippery. This makes it easy for them to move.



Some different kinds of worm

The night crawler - These worms normally come out after dark.

The angleworm – These worms are used by people to catch fish.

The rainworm – These worms are found on rainy days.

Did you know?

The longest worm ever found was in South Africa and was as long as three people lying head to toe.

Why worms are amazing!

- Worms are not boys or girls, they are both!
- If a worm is hurt, it can get better on its own.
- A worm has no arms, legs or eyes but can move a really long way.
- Worms don't breathe like people and animals; they use their skin.

Worms hatch out of eggs, like chickens. But they are not like babies. When they hatch, they are like adult worms, just very, very tiny.

Questions About Worms

Answer the questions below in full sentences.

1. Where would you find worms?

2. Which worms are found on rainy days?

3. Where was the longest worm found?

4. Are worms rough or slimy?

5. When do night crawlers come out?

6. Find one amazing fact about worms.

Questions About Worms

Answers

1. Where would you find worms?
You find worms in gardens, in the soil.
2. Which worms are found on rainy days?
Rainworms are found on rainy days.
3. Where was the longest worm found?
The longest worm was found in South Africa.
4. Are worms rough or slimy?
Worms are slimy.
5. When do night crawlers come out?
Night crawlers come out at night.
6. Find one amazing fact about worms.
Children to give a fact to answer the question.

Worms

Worms might not be the most beautiful animals but they are very important for our planet. They have existed for about 600 million years. There are about 34,000 different types of worm. Many are so small you wouldn't be able to see them without a microscope! Worms dig through the soil, creating tiny tunnels, letting in water and air, which are both needed by plants. Every gardener knows that a healthy garden needs plenty of worms. To help them slide through the ground, worms produce slime on their skin. This slime lets them move easily and is also very good for helping the soil to grow plants.



Most common types of worm

The night crawler - These worms normally come out after dark because they are nocturnal.

The angleworm – These worms are most commonly used by fishermen as bait.

The rainworm - These worms leave tunnels so that soil is full of water after the rain.

Did you know?

The longest worm ever found was in South Africa and it was about 7 metres long!

Why worms are amazing!

- Worms are not boys or girls, they are both!
- If a worm's tail is cut off, it can grow it back.
- A worm has no arms, legs or eyes but they are able to travel a long way.
- A worm can eat as much as it weighs in a single day!
- Because worms don't have lungs, they breathe through their skin.
- Worms are about 1000 times stronger than people.

Worms hatch out of eggs. When they hatch, they are like adult worms just very, very tiny.

Photo courtesy of (Smabs Sputzer @flickr.com) granted under creative commons licence attribution

Questions About Worms

Answer the questions below in full sentences.

1. Which type of worm comes out after dark?

2. How do worms breathe?

3. How long have worms been around for?

4. Why are worms good for gardens?

5. Are worms boys or girls?

6. How long was the longest worm ever found?

7. What do worms do to help them move through the ground?

8. Where do baby worms come from?

Questions About Worms

Answers

1. Which type of worm comes out after dark?

The type of worm that comes out after dark is the night crawler.

2. How do worms breathe?

Worms breathe through their skin.

3. How long have worms been around for?

Worms have been around for over 600 million years.

4. Why are worms good for gardens?

They give off slime that helps the soil. Their tunnels let in air and water.

5. Are worms boys or girls?

Worms are neither boys or girls, they are both.

6. How long was the longest worm ever found?

The longest worm ever found was about 7 metres long.

7. What do worms do to help them move through the ground?

Worms make slime on their skin that lets them slide.

8. Where do baby worms come from?

Baby worms hatch from eggs.

Worms

Worms are often overlooked by people for being useless or ugly, but they are vital for our planet. They have existed for about 600 million years. There are more than 34,000 different types of worm. Many are so minute that you couldn't see them with the naked eye. You would need special equipment like a magnifying glass or even a microscope. Worms burrow through the soft layers of soil, leaving behind spaces, which allow water and air to reach the lower layers. Every gardener knows that a healthy garden needs plenty of worms. To help them slide through the ground, worms generate a slick slime on their skin. This slime allows them to move easily. This slime has another use. It is rich in nitrogen, which is needed for plants to grow well.



Most common types of worm

Though there are thousands of kinds of worm, some are more common than others. One species is known as the night crawler. They have this name because they are nocturnal, which means they are active at night. People who enjoy fishing often use worms as bait to tempt fish. The most popular worm for this is the angleworm. This kind of worm is only ever found after heavy storms and floods. The rainworm is found when the soil and mud that it lives in has become saturated with water.

Did you know?

The longest earthworm ever found was in South Africa and it measured approximately 7 metres long!

Why worms are amazing!

- Worms do not have a gender. They are able to reproduce on their own.
- If a worm is injured, it is able to heal itself and can even regenerate if it has its tail cut off.
- Because worms don't have lungs like humans and other animals, they have evolved to breathe through their skin.

Photo courtesy of (Smabs Sputzer @flickr.com) granted under creative commons licence attribution

Questions About Worms

Answer the questions below in full sentences.

1. What do worms do due to not having lungs?

2. What worm are you most likely to spot in the evening?

3. Is it possible to find a male worm?

4. Why are worms good for gardens?

5. What does the word evolve mean?

6. What equipment might you need to view some worms?

7. Why don't you find worms with no tails?

8. What do you think is the most amazing fact about worms?

Questions About Worms

Answers

1. What do worms do due to not having lungs?
Worms don't have lungs so they breathe through their skin.
2. What worm are you most likely to spot in the evening?
You would spot the night crawler as they are nocturnal.
3. Is it possible to find a male worm?
You cannot find a male worm as worms do not have a gender.
4. Why are worms good for gardens?
Worms are good for gardens because their tunnels let in air and water. Their slime also has nitrogen that helps plants to grow.
5. What does the word evolve mean?
Evolve means to adapt and change to survive.
6. What equipment might you need to view some worms?
You need a microscope or magnifying glass to see some worms.
7. Why don't you find worms with no tails?
Worms are able to regrow their tails if they are injured.
8. What do you think is the most amazing fact about worms?
Children to select one of the facts and justify their thinking.