

Vermicomposting

Objectives:

I will be able to draw connections between standard composting and vermicomposting.

I will explore the anatomy of red wigglers.

Standards:

E.12.C.4 Students know processes of obtaining, using, and recycling of renewable and nonrenewable sources. E/S

L.12.C.1 Students know relationships of organisms and their physical environment. E/S

E.12.C.5 Students know soil, derived from weathered rocks and decomposed organic material, is found in layers. E/S



Vocabulary:

- 1. Vermicomposting:**
- 2. Red wigglers:**
- 3. Anterior:**
- 4. Posterior:**
- 5. Clitellum:**
- 6. Segments:**

Questions:

- 1. The anterior (head end) of the red wiggler is narrower than the posterior (tail end). What color is the anterior?**
- 2. What color is the posterior?**
- 3. Which end is the clitellum closer to? If your worm does not have a visible clitellum, see if someone sitting near you has one that does.**
- 4. Red wigglers are made up of rings called segments. Compare your worm with your neighbor's. Which worm has more segments?**
- 5. Lightly touch the worm's anterior. What does it do?**
- 6. Lightly touch the worm's posterior. What does it do?**
- 7. How does the worm feel when you touch it?**
- 8. When the worm moves forward, does it move head first or tail first?**
- 9. Put some bedding material near the worm. Watch the worm for 1-2 minutes. Describe the worm's activity.**