

Lesson Time:
60 minutes

Vermicomposting

Vocabulary:

Vermicomposting

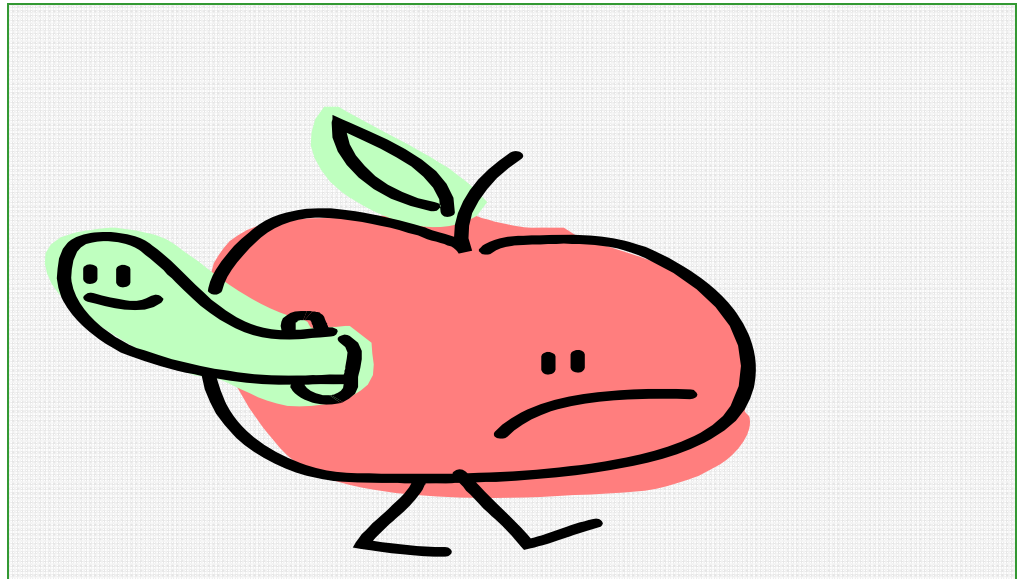
Red Wigglers

Anterior

Posterior

Clitellum

Segments



Objectives

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

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

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

Materials Needed

30	Handouts or an overhead
30	Magnifying glasses if available
1	Whiteboard
1	Set of dry erase markers
1	Container of 2lbs of red wigglers (or vermicomposting bin)
1	Roll of paper towel

Anticipatory Set

Write the lesson objectives and/or standards on the whiteboard.
Discuss with the students what the objectives and/or standards of the lessons are.

Objective: You will be able to draw connections between standard composting and vermicomposting.

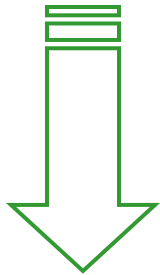
Objective: You will explore the anatomy of red wigglers.

Distribute handouts (or workbooks).

Introduction:

“Today we are going to talk about vermicomposting. We will start by reviewing the important concepts of composting.”

“We are going to follow that with an exploration of red wigglers. Red wigglers are the worms that we use for composting.”



Modeling / Guided Practice

1. Have the students refer back to the previous two lessons.
Review the important concepts of composting.

Modeling / Guided Practice

2. Have the students draw their attention to their handouts or the overhead.
3. Provide instructions for the following activity.
Read and explain all of the questions the students are to answer.
4. Pass out *damp* paper towels and the magnifying glasses.

REMIND THE STUDENTS THAT WORMS ARE ANIMALS AND ARE NOT TO BE HARMED

5. Provide each student with at least 1 worm and some vermicompost.
6. Have the students fill out their worksheets. Scaffold for support.
7. When the students are done, collect the materials. Worms and the paper towels may be deposited back in the worm bin.

Closure:

1. Discuss the findings of some of the students.
2. Compare vermicomposting with regular composting.

Independent Practice

Not applicable for this lesson.