

# Science Stories

## Science to Go

### Wriggling Worms

#### READ ALOUD TIPS FROM MISS RENEE

- Make reading fun - this shouldn't be a chore for you or your child
- Preview the book. Reading it to yourself lets you know what your in for and helps with reading aloud
- Read in manner you're comfortable with but make sure you read with expression. If you're not comfortable doing voices don't, but don't read as if the book is boring.
- It's okay to ask questions, talk about things or explore the pictures with your child while you're reading
- Just because you child isn't sitting with you or gets up to play doesn't mean they aren't listening, so keep reading. Of course if they've left the room or are being really loud while playing then you can stop.
- Participate in the activities with your child. Just because you're a grownup doesn't mean you can be silly and have fun!

#### SCIENCE TIPS

#### FROM MISS RENEE

- Be an active participant with your child
- Ask questions - it's okay not to know the answer, that's why you have a library.

### Booklist

#### Fiction:

- Worm Weather by Jean Taft  
Yucky Worms by Vivian French  
Max's Worm Cake by Rosemary Wells

#### Non-Fiction

- Inside the Worm's Hole by Meish Goldish  
Worms by Laura Murray  
Wiggling Worms at Work by Wendy Pfeffer

### Exploration Activity

#### Worm Observation

Materials: soil, plastic container, worms, shovel, wet paper towels, magnifying glass, ruler, paper, crayons, pencils

#### How to:

**Prep:** Find a section of your yard where there are and dig for worms, place worms and the soil into the plastic container.

Show the container and ask your kids what might live in here. Then show them the worms. (If you'd rather you can do this outside and have the kids dig for worms themselves). Ask what do you know about worms already? Place worms on damp paper towels, hand out rulers and magnifying glasses. Have them observe the worms, they don't have to touch them, but if they do make sure their hands are damp/wet and that they are gentle. (Worms skin must remain moist for their survival it is not recommended to touch them with dry hands). Observe: How does is move? What color is it? What does its skin look like? What does it feel like? Can you find the head? How does it look in comparison to the tail? Have kids draw their worm. Does your worm have eyes? Can you see the tiny hairs on its body? Notice how its muscle segments move. Put some soil on the paper, does the worm move toward it. If the soil pile is big enough does the worm enter it completely?



Remember to return your worms!

# Learning Activities

## Worm Measure

Discover how long a worm is.

Materials: damp paper towels, 3 earthworms, ruler.

How to:

- Gently place 3 worms on damp paper towels. One worm at a time, gently lay the worm as straight as you can (keep your hands damp). Lay the ruler alongside the worm and measure how long. Repeat for the other 2 worms.
- Make a chart. Which worm was the longest, which was the shortest. Draw your worms.

Repeat with more worms if you'd like, just remember to be gentle.

Note; Don't want to use real worms, that's okay try a bag of gummy worms instead.

## Worm Trail Art

The art of worms

Materials: paint (natural colors), rubber worm, paper, string (optional)

WARNING: Do NOT do this activity with a live worm!

Place small squirts of paint around the piece of paper. Tie the string to one end of the worm (this is optional, you can also just hold one end of the worm). Drag your worm to pretend it's moving across the paper, Drag it through the colors and watch the worm trails that you create.

## Finger Worm Art

Materials: finger paint, paper, your fingers,

How to:

- Paint your finger with the paint

- Press your finger to the paper
- Add eyes, mouth, nose, maybe a hair ribbon to decorate your finger worm

Don't like paint on your hands, then use a pencil to trace your finger onto the paper and then decorate.

## Worm Snack

Materials: cup, pudding, chocolate sandwich cookies, gummy worms,

How to:

- Crush 3 or 4 sandwich cookies until they are crumbly
- Make the pudding according to the package.
- Mix the cookie crumbs into the pudding and put into a cup.
- Sprinkle some of the cookie crumbs onto the top and add the gummy worms.
- Enjoy!

## Worm Walk

Take a walk after it rains, and explore the puddles and damp ground. Can you find any worms? Why do you think the worms come up out of the ground? Why are they on the pavement? If you see worms on the pavement please move them to dirt nearby.

## Digging for Worms

Make sure you have permission to dig in places around your yard. Explore different places: in the grass, in the garden, somewhere shady, somewhere in sun, a dry place, a wet place. Dig at different times of the day: morning, afternoon, night. Dig on a wet day, dig on a sunny day. Where were the places you found worms? Did you notice any difference in the number of worms you found on a sunny day versus as wet day? Or the time of day that you dug? How many worms did you find. Take notes, and create a chart. Note: make sure you refill all the holes your dug and that you put your worms back.

# To Learn More

National Geographic: Common Earthworm <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/invertebrates/c/common-earthworm/>

National Wildlife Federation <https://www.nwf.org/Educational-Resources/Wildlife-Guide/Invertebrates/Earthworms>

National Geographic Kids <https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/animals/invertebrates/earthworm/>

Kids Growing Strong <https://kidsgrowingstrong.org/worms/>

