

# Pet Earthworm Care

KIDS HANDS-ON

START L-7 · OBSERVE ON THE DAY

20 MIN

## The point

A worm has no leaves and cannot make its own food from light — so it must **eat**. And look what it eats: a **plant**. Every animal's dinner traces back to a plant, even down in the dark. The proof is the leaf slowly vanishing.

## Materials

- Clear worm bin with an air-holed lid
- Moist (not soaked) soil
- Wilted romaine leaf — one for last week, one fresh
- Composting worms (red wigglers)

## Steps

- 1 Gather at the bin you started **last week**. Find the leaf — ragged, holey, half gone.
- 2 Ask: who is eating it? Not the soil — the **worms**. They are animals; they must eat.
- 3 Build a fresh bin: moist soil, a new **wilted romaine leaf** on top, worms added gently, lid on.
- 4 Draw the fresh leaf on the worksheet as **Day 1**.
- 5 Next week, draw it again as **Day 7** — watch how much is gone.

*Say: "A worm cannot drink the sun the way a plant does. So it eats — and it eats a plant. Follow any animal's dinner far enough back, and you always reach a leaf catching sunlight."*

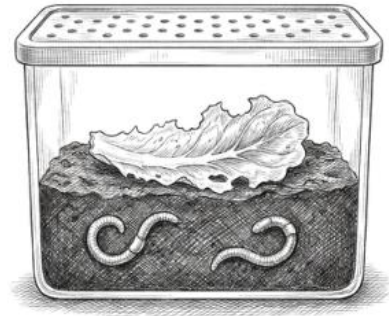


Fig. 1 — the wilted leaf laid on moist soil; worms eat it from below

## TEACHER PREP — START L-7

Set the bin up at the **end of the prior week** so the leaf is already disappearing on lesson day. Keep it out of sun; soil moist, never soaked.

## What to watch for

- The old leaf full of holes — edges chewed ragged
- Worms surfacing near the leaf, not eating the plain soil
- A kid saying "it's smaller!" next week — that's the whole lesson

## EXPECTED RESULT

Over the week the romaine leaf shrinks and grows holey while the soil stays put — the worms are eating the **plant**, not the ground. An animal must eat; its food is always biological.