

Worms

Curriculum guide



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How to use this resource



The activities in this resource have been designed for students from Pre-primary to Year Two, Year Three to Year Four, and Year Five to Year Six. Each teacher booklet contains units of work and a matching set of PowerPoint slides. The units contain a series of lessons on a worm topic. There is a set of PowerPoint slides for each topic. They have been designed to be used over the series of lessons in the unit.

Most of the lessons are hands-on or interactive. We recommend completing the units in order as each one builds on the knowledge and skills gained in earlier lessons; however, each unit can also be completed as stand-alone lessons.

We suggest you begin by reading the 'Background information' in each unit of the teacher booklet as it contains important information on the topic. A glossary of key words can be found at the end of the background information.

Structure of each unit

Each unit in the teacher booklets includes the following:

- Background information
- Key words
- Western Australian curriculum links
- Timing
- Learning objectives
- Resources required
- Lesson outlines
- Printable resources

Units of work

Pre-primary – Year 2

Worm science

- All about worms
- Looking at worms
- Life cycle of a worm
- Measuring worms
- Observing how worms respond to light

Worm food

- Setting up a mini worm farm
- Observations
- Findings and discussion

Important worms

- Grassy heads experiment
- Observations
- Findings and discussion

Additional activities

- Cross-curricular activities
- Picture books

Years 3–4

Worm science

- Looking at worms
- Living, non-living and once living
- Classifying animals
- Food chains
- How worms respond to light investigation

Worm food

- Planning an experiment - mini worm farm
- Conducting an experiment
- Findings and discussion

Important worms

- Planning an experiment - grassy heads
- Conducting an experiment
- Findings and discussion

Years 5–6

Worm science

- Life cycle of a worm
- Looking at worms
- Researching worms – adaptations
- Planning an experiment – how worms respond to an external stimulus
- Conducting an experiment

Worm food

- Planning an experiment - mini worm farm
- Conducting an experiment
- Findings and discussion

Important worms

- Planning an experiment - grassy heads
- Conducting an experiment
- Findings and discussion

Designing a worm farm

- Research
- Design
- Presentation

Worm farm enterprise

- Research
- Planning
- Creating a business plan

References

Angima S, Noack M, and Noack S (2011) '[Composting with Worms](#)' Oregon State University Extension Service EM9034, accessed 18 January 2024.

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Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (2023) '[Quarterly Update of Australia's National Greenhouse Gas Inventory: March 2023](#)', accessed 24 January 2023.

Macquarie (2003), *Macquarie, Australia's National Dictionary, Concise Dictionary*, Macquarie University, Australia.

Murphy D (2005) *Organic growing with worms: a Handbook for a Better Environment*, Penguin Books Australia.

Sydenham, Shirley and Thomas, Ron (2022) [Earthworms](#), KidCyber website, accessed 18 January 2024.

University of Illinois Extension (2025) [The adventures of Herman: the autobiography of Squirmin' Herman the worm](#), accessed 18 January 2024.

Further information

WasteSorted Schools '[Worm Farming at School](#)' resources, including fact sheets and videos on setting up worm farming at school.

Planet Ark (2012) '[Costa's guide to worm farming and composting for households](#)' [video], Planet Ark, YouTube, accessed 18 January 2024.

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