

Objective

Students know that animals of the same type (i.e. worms) have individual differences.

Activity

1. Explain to students how worms are essential to a garden. Use this link for help:
<https://wonderopolis.org/wonder/why-are-earthworms-good-for-gardens>
2. Have students spend time in the garden, if appropriate, searching for worms.
3. Explore differences in these three types of worms: red wigglers, earthworms, and nightcrawlers. Have students measure each one using unifix cubes. Have them observe physical differences in each worm type using magnifying glasses. Students should draw each worm using their nonstandard measurement. Finally, have them identify similarities and differences in each worm type.
4. End the lesson with students doing a turn-and-talk activity to explain why worms are important to our school garden.

Grade Level: Kindergarten

Subject Area: Science

Materials:

Different varieties of worms (red wigglers, earthworms, nightcrawlers)
Magnifying glasses
Nonstandard measuring tools (Ex: unifix cubes)

Standards:

K.L.1.1 - Compare different types of the same animal (i.e. different types of dogs, different types of cats, etc.) to determine individual differences within a particular type of animal.

Collaborators:

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Extension

Consider starting a vermicomposting project in the classroom.

<https://www.wikihow.com/Make-a-Worm-Compost-System>

The following read-aloud books are helpful with this lesson:

- *An Earthworm's Life* by John Himmelman
- *Winnie Finn, Worm Farmer* by Carol Brendler
- *Wonderful Worms* by Linda Glasner

Your Notes & Ideas