

# Yucky Worms

## Age/Grade Range

- Ages: 6-8

## Group Size

- Up to 30

## Time

- Set-up: 5 minutes
- Activity: 15-20min

## Materials

- Yucky Worms (book by Vivian French)
- Flashlight
- Worm bins

## Set-Up

- Clear a large space for students to gather in a large horseshoe formation. They will need some space to move around in.

## Delivery Tips

- For larger groups, use this as a station paired with other activities.



NWT SCIENCE FOCUS

## Topics

- Ecology and Animals

## Objective

- Learn about worms in an active, hands on way.



## Activity Directions

1. Read “Yucky Worms”
2. Be a Worm! Now the kids will all get to pretend to be worms:
  - a. Do worms have arms and legs? Nope! Snap your arms and legs to your bodies.
  - b. Worms have two types of muscle; one goes ‘laterally’ the whole length of their body, and the other ones go around the body in rings. To move, they expand and contract these muscles like an accordion to inch forward: pretend you are inching around in the soil.
  - c. Do worms have eyes? Nope! Close your eyes
  - d. How do worms find food? Wiggle around trying to sense food with your head!
  - e. Turn on your flashlight. Open your eyes. There’s something scary coming! It’s the hot sun! Hide!!!
  - f. Oh, we’re nice and deep in the ground, oh wait, it’s raining! We’ll drown if we don’t find high ground! Get up!
  - g. One more thing – worms love being together in a community, so everyone come on in close and wiggle around together.
3. Look at the worms! Give everyone a worm to look at! Make sure they understand that a worm needs to stay moist, or it will dry up and that they are sensitive so the kids can only use their pinky finger to touch them and not to squeeze.
  - a. What’s special about a worm –
  - b. Do they have skin like us? What’s special about it?
  - c. Which end is their head, and which is their posterior?
  - d. How do they move?
  - e. Can you see some of their insides?
  - f. Do they have eyes?

## Extension

- Vermi-Compost activity

