

Grade 4 – Assignment for week of (3/30 to 4/3)

Adding Decomposers to our Terrariums:

Our terrariums are now (2) weeks old. We started our small ecosystem using soil, plants, litter, seeds, and water.

This week we will study and add something new to the food chain...

Task #1:

Use one word from the science vocabulary listed below, to make an acrostic telling about earthworms. An acrostic uses each letter in the word to describe the word you are telling about.

An example might be:

E- Every
A- Active
R- Really
T- Tall
H- Hollow
W- Worm
O- Overflows
R- Rich
M- Minerals

Science Vocabulary:

Earthworm: an annelid that eats live and dead organic matter in the soil
Annelid: an invertebrate animal and segmented worm
Invertebrate: an animal without a backbone, about 95% of all animals
Prostomium: the first body segment of the worm, not including the mouth
Decomposer: organism that breaks down organic material and recycles nutrients

Task #2: Observing our Terrariums and Earthworms

Observe the picture of your terrarium, do you notice any changes from last week?



Share with your parent or guardian or think to yourself (3) or more changes

The following changes I see are...

Why do you think our earthworm is called a decomposer?

Task #3:

Observe the picture of the earthworm that has been added to your terrarium.

Use the Earthworm Anatomy information below to see what we can learn about our earthworm:

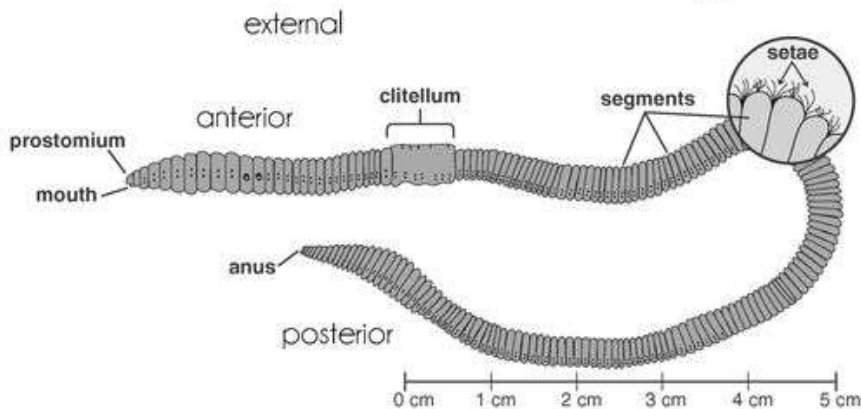
Can you find the mouth?

**The posterior/anterior
End?**



The clitellum?

Earthworm Anatomy



*Earthworms are invertebrates - they do not have backbones.

*Like humans, earthworms have bilateral symmetry.

*The prostomium, a flap that covers the mouth in some species, is a sensory device.

*Earthworms do not have lungs - they can breathe through their skin as long as it stays moist.

*Because earthworms do not have teeth, they use a gizzard to grind up large pieces of food.

*Earthworms are hermaphrodites - their bodies contain both male and female reproductive organs.

