

# Year One Topic Home Learning

This week we are going to extend the learning of our Minibeasts Topic and link this to our Literacy learning of Superworm. Your challenge for this week is all about worms! You could start your learning by watching this information video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-zc\\_1vjLnI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l-zc_1vjLnI)

Afterwards you could try and make your own wormery following the instructions below. You could use your daily walk to go worm hunting, then you could observe the worms over a week or two, feeding them regularly before releasing them back into the wild.

To extend this learning, you could write a report of what happened. How did you make your wormery? What did you have to do? Did you name your worms? Where did you find them? What did they do? What did you observe? What did they enjoy eating? Why are worms important?

There's an alternative instructional poster which uses a large plastic bottle found at: <https://www.lincstrust.org.uk/wormery>

## Make your own wormery



**You will need:**

- 2-3 earthworms
- 1 litre clear plastic drinks bottle
- Garden soil
- Compost
- Light-coloured sand
- Scissors
- Cling film and an elastic band
- Water
- Leaves
- Paper or card and tape

- 1 With the help of an adult, cut the top off the drinks bottle and remove any labels
- 2 Build up layers of different kinds of soil and sand in the bottle
- 3 Sprinkle fallen leaves over the top and water until damp
- 4 Add your worms!
- 5 Secure cling film over the top to stop your worms escaping. Pierce with tiny holes.
- 6 Wrap the bottle in paper to keep it dark for your worms. You can remove this when you want to have a look at how they've mixed the layers.
- 7 Keep in a cool place and top up with water when needed. Release your worms back into the wild after you've finished your experiment.

Illustration: Corinne Smith © Copyright: Royal Society for Wildlife Trusts 2015

# Make Your Own Wormery



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# Equipment



## You will need:

Earthworms

Large, clean jar or clear container  
(with a few holes made in the lid)

Plastic tray

Soil

Sand

Gravel or small stones

Water (in a spray bottle)

Old leaves, plants or flowers

Fruit and vegetable peelings

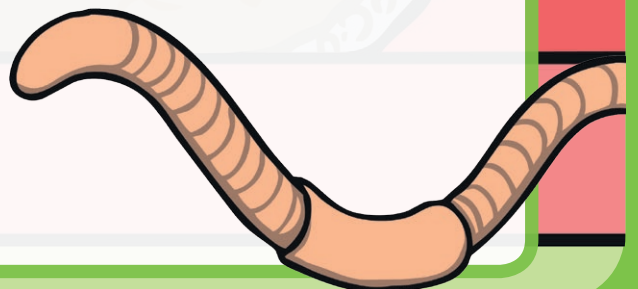
Black paper

Sticky tape

Somewhere cool and dark (such as a cupboard)



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# Step 1

Begin by washing and drying your chosen jar or container. It should be clear so that you can see into it. Then, place the container into the plastic tray to make tidying up easier.



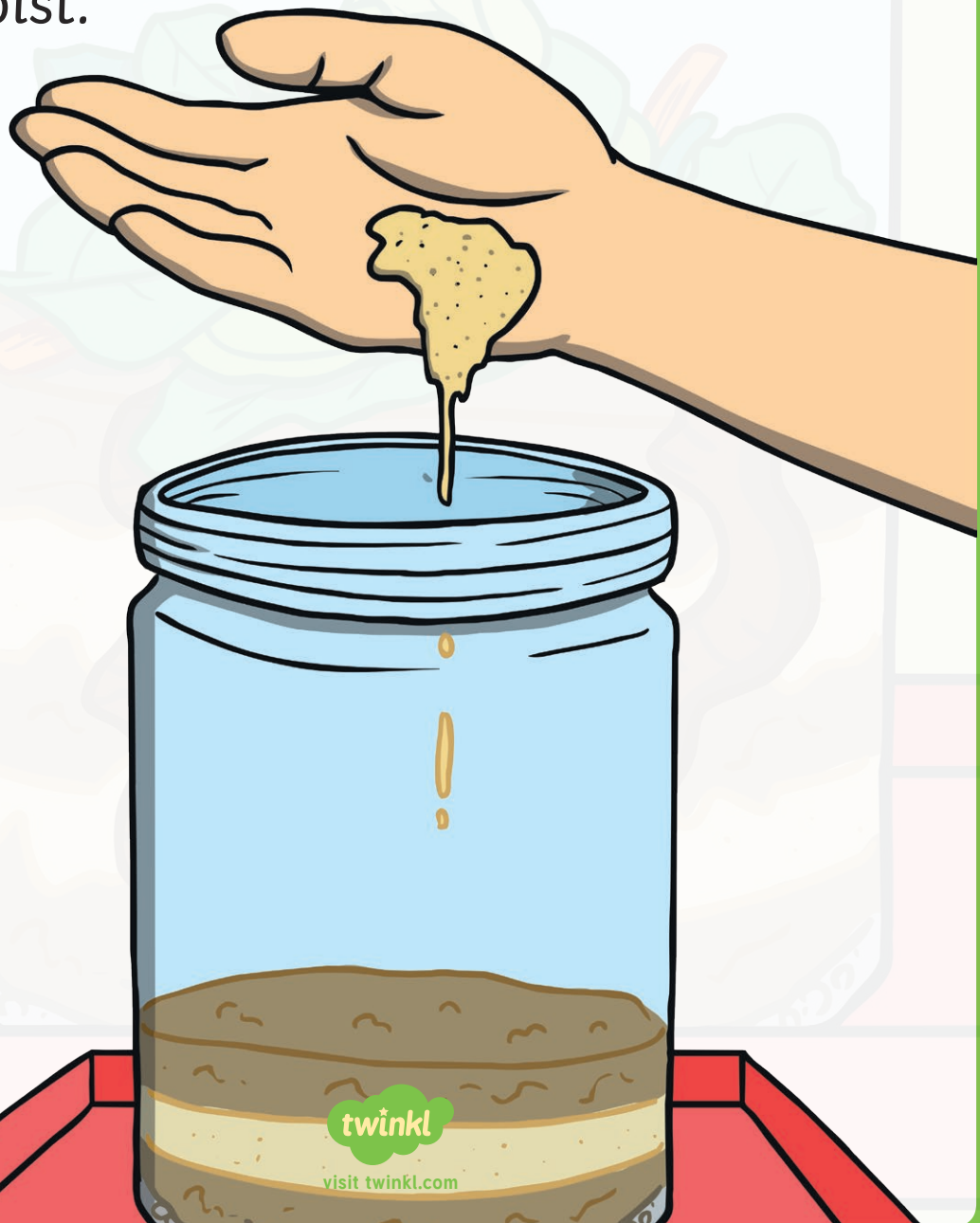
# Step 2

Pour in some gravel or small stones – this will help to drain any excess water.



# Step 3

Then, add alternate layers of sand and soil. Each layer should be about 2cm deep. There needs to be about 5cm of space at the top of the container. Spray each layer with a little water so that it is moist.



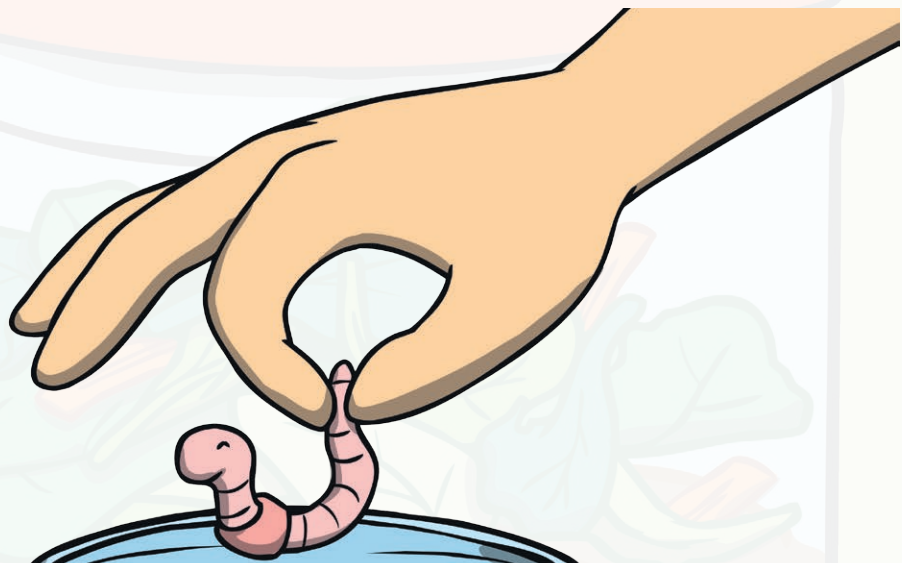
# Step 4

Continue adding layers of sand and soil until you have nearly filled the container to the top. The top layer should be of soil. Remember to leave some space at the top for the worms and their food!



# Step 5

Then, find some earthworms to put into your wormery! Carefully, place the worms onto the top layer of soil.





# Step 6

Next, gently place some leaves, plants or flowers and some fruit and vegetable peelings on the top.



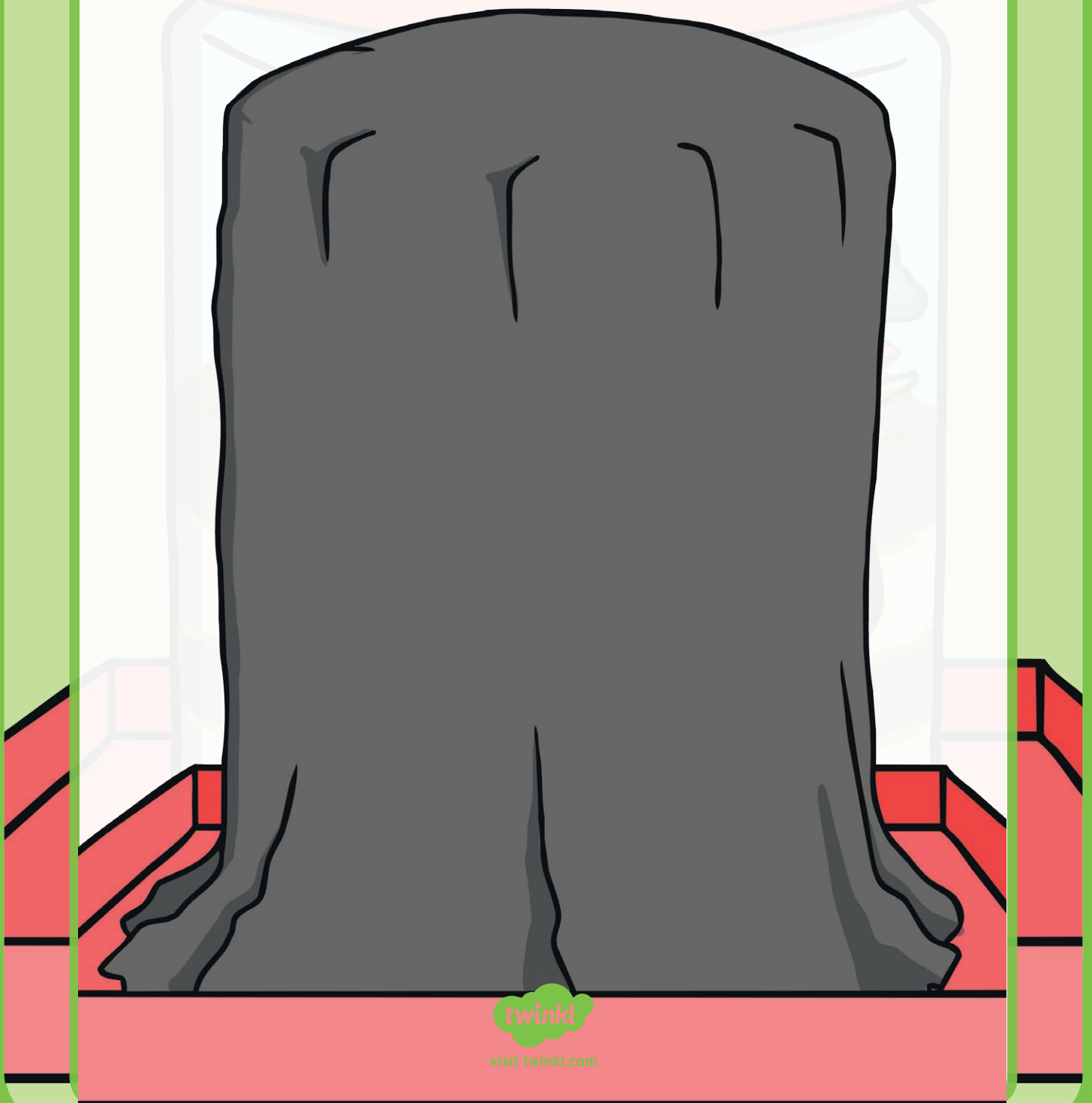
# Step 7

Carefully place the lid onto the jar.  
Make sure there are some holes in the lid.



# Step 8

Stick the black paper around the container and place it somewhere cool and dark, such as inside a cupboard.



# Step 9

Leave for a few days and then check on your wormery to see what the worms have been doing! Remember to hold the container carefully and place it on a table to keep it steady.



# Step 10

Add some more leaves, and fruit and vegetable peelings to the top of the wormery if needed. Place the black paper back around the container and place back into the cupboard, once you have finished looking at the worms.



# Wormery Question Prompts

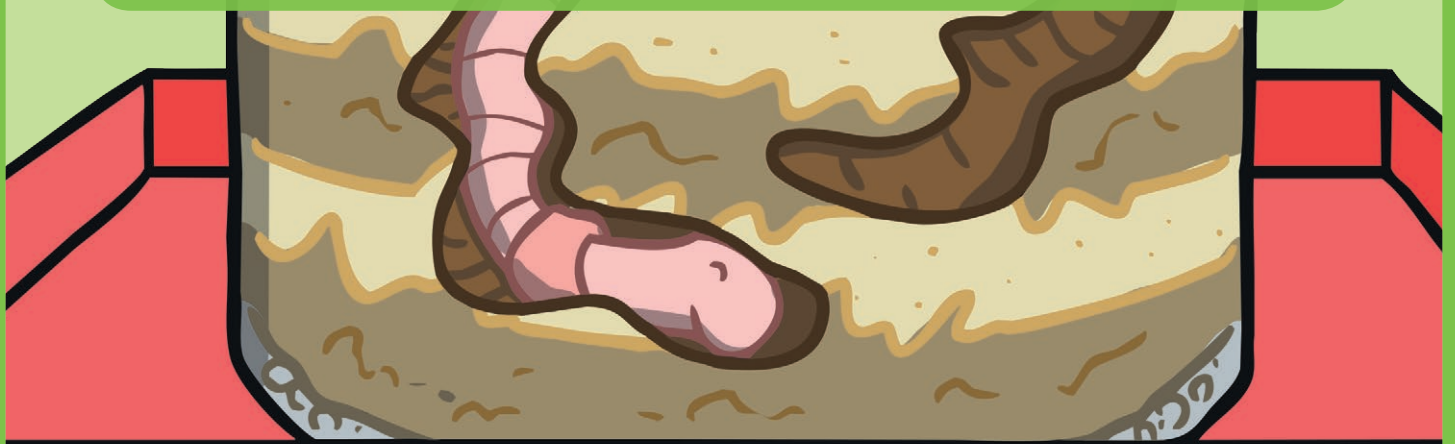


What can you see?

What has happened to the different layers?

What has happened to the leaves and food on top of the soil?

Can you see any patterns the worms have made in the soil?



# Caring for Your Worms



To look after your worms, make sure that the contents of your wormery are kept moist – not too wet and not too dry. Also, earthworms don't like to be kept anywhere that is too hot or too cold – so somewhere cool is best. Make sure to add new food to the top of the wormery once it has been eaten. Plants, leaves and flowers or fruit and vegetable peelings are good.



# All about Worms

Worms are long and thin. They do not have arms or legs.

Worms have lots and lots of little rings around their body. These are called segments.

Earthworms use their skin to breath. They don't have lungs like many other animals. They need to stay moist to stay alive.

Worms have tiny hairs all along their body. These help the worm to move through the soil.

Worms eat dead leaves, plants, flowers and old fruit and vegetables.

Worms help to mix layers of the soil together. They burrow under the ground, making tunnels which helps to move the soil around.

They help to break down dead plants and flowers.

Baby worms hatch from tiny cocoons.

Worms don't have eyes but can sense light. They like to live in cool, dark, damp places.



# Caring for Worms in a Wormery

Only add water to your wormery if the contents are very dry. Worms need damp conditions to survive – but do not like very wet soil. Use a spray bottle to add just a little water at a time.

Only add new food if the previous food has largely all been eaten – avoid adding too much food at once.

Choose foods carefully – foods such as dairy foods, meat, fish, onions or garlic should be avoided. Try adding some banana or apple peel, teabags and shredded paper instead.

Chop food into small pieces to make it easier for the worms to eat.

Worms don't like the light, so keep your wormery somewhere dark.

Keep your wormery a fairly consistent temperature – not too hot and not too cold.

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