

Yucky Worm World

Name _____

Find the link for *Yucky Worm World* on the *Plants and Animals* page at the *Kid Zone* at <http://sciencespot.net/>. The link is located at the bottom of the page in the section for invertebrates.

➔ Click the link for “All About Earthworms” to answer these questions.

1. How many species of worms are there? _____

2. How many different kinds of earthworms are there? _____

3. Read the section about body parts to answer these questions.

_____ - I push this out of my mouth to grab leaves and to pull them back into my mouth. Then I get them nice and wet with my saliva.

_____ - Once I have my food good and wet, I push it down this to move it to my crop.

_____ - This is a storage compartment for my food and other things I swallow. From here, my lunch moves to my gizzard.

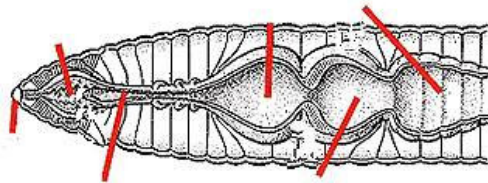
_____ - This is where the work happens. I use any stones that I've swallowed and the strong muscles of this organ to grind up the leaves. These muscles work almost like teeth.

_____ - Once the leaves are all ground up they move to this organ where the digestive juices break them down even more.

_____ - Once the leaf is all digested, some of it will pass into this to be circulated through my body.

_____ - Whatever is leftover comes out of here as castings or worm poop.

4. Label the diagram of the digestive tract of the worm.



5. Do worms have teeth? _____

6. How many “hearts” does a worm have? _____

➔ Click the link at the top of the page to go to the “Visit Wendell’s Cousins” section to answer these questions.

7. What substance does Eddie the Earthworm use to keep his skin moist? _____

8. Why do worms need to keep their skin moist? _____

9. What did Aristotle call earthworms? _____

10. Worms have been called “underground farmers”. Why?

11. What is earthworm poop called? _____

12. What are three predators that feed on earthworms? _____

13. How are earthworms different from nightcrawlers? List three ways.

14. What type of worm is Paulette the Planarian? _____

15. What is her “secret weapon”?

16. What is unique about a planarian’s ability to regenerate as compared to other animals and earthworms?

17. What is Larry the Leech’s job? _____ Why is this job important?

18. What kind of tapeworm is Tommi? _____

19. How does a bear tapeworm get into the bear’s digestive system?

20. Bobby the Bearded doesn’t have a mouth or a digestive system. How does he “eat”?

21. Where does Bobby live?

➔ Click the link at the top of the page to go to the “Worms as Recyclers” section to answer these questions.

22. Earthworms are recyclers. What are some other organisms that are also called recyclers?

23. Why are decomposers important to our environment?

Done? Click the link to go to the Yucky Fun & Games and try one of the games. You may also visit the links listed in the Animal Fun & Games section.