

Because of Worms

SECOND GRADE

In second grade students are introduced to the concept of cause and effect. There are many factors that make a garden successful and therefore lots of examples of cause and effect. In this activity students will learn all about the school's composting worms and the good work they do for our planet and the school garden.

SUBJECT

EXPLORE

TIME

30 - 45 MIN

MATERIALS

Diary of a Worm by Doreen Cronin

Worm bin

Magnifying lens, 1 per student (optional)

Cardboard trays, several from the worm bin

Qtips, 1 per student

Newspaper, enough to cover tables

DIRECTIONS.

- Gather students in the garden and read them the story *Diary of a Worm* by Doreen Cronin. Give students the following fun facts about worms:
 - Worms breathe through their skin.
 - If their skin dries out, they will die.
 - Worms can eat more than half their weight in food every day.
 - They have no teeth but grind the food in their gizzard.
 - Worms don't have eyes - they sense light and try to get away from it.
 - They lay eggs that can produce 10 or more babies.
- Ask students if they know about the work the worms do at our school site and why it helps our garden and our planet.
 - Answer: Our worms help us break down uneaten fruit and vegetable scraps at school so they do not go to the landfill. Ask students if they have seen the compost collection bucket on the SCRAP Cart. Also tell students, our worms also make a manure (poop) that is nutrient rich (because they eat healthy fruits and vegetables) and this helps our plants in the garden grow very strong.
- Cover the tables with newspaper and then put a little bit of compost from the worm bin in each cardboard tray. Let students find the worms and explore the compost with the magnifying glass. Gently move the worm about with Qtips. Make sure students are gentle with the worms and return them to the worm bin after exploring them.
- When the observation activity has ended:
 - Throw away any trash.
 - Return the cardboard trays to the worm bin.
 - Cover the piles in the worm bin with burlap or cardboard and close the hard lid.
 - Wash hands.

SOURCE

- BCK Programs

