



# #WormyWednesday

## Key questions

**What are worms?**

**Why are worms a sign of healthy soil?**

**How do healthy soils help farmers grow food?**

## Instructions

Worms have a very important job to play helping farmers grow their crops.

Join [scientist Hazel Fielding](#) to learn all about earthworms, and ask pupils to remember one 'wonder of a worm' fact to share with the class. Compile all the facts into a worm fact-file as a class or smaller groups.

Why are farmers so interested in worms and looking after them? Discuss with the class how important worms are for a healthy soil (notes from the video: for nutrients from worm casts, worm burrow allows channels for roots to get further into the soil and access the nutrients and water, burrows also allow air and water to move more easily as soil less compact).

Plants need nutrients to grow so a healthy soil means healthier crops to feed us (cereals, vegetables) and animals (grass) which in turn means more nutritious food for us to eat. The more worms we find in the soil, the healthier the soil is likely to be.

## You could also...

Pupils conduct their own worm research - [big worm hunt](#) (video and further activities) or try worm charming.

## Make it simpler

Sing the nursery rhyme '[There's a Worm at the Bottom of the Garden](#)'. Discuss with pupils what we know about Wiggly Woo, could include how he moves, where he lives (ask what you would find in the garden -soil!) and when he is awake. Talk about what worms eat and that their poo is full of nutrients which helps the garden/crops grow.

## Make it harder

Conduct a survey of different parts of the schoolgrounds, and identify the different worms found. Use the [Earthworm ID document](#) to identify which are most common. Pupils could compare their findings to those at home, where could the most worms be found?

## Find out more

[Book: Yucky Worms – Vivien French and Jessica Alhberg](#)

[Rocks and Soils – activities to explore soil further](#)

[Global Climate Change – Soils for Primary](#)

## Resources required

- Space to dig up worms
- A spade
- Trays to sort worms

## What do you think?

Is soil the basis of all life?  
Discuss

