

## Learning objectives

- Why soil is important.
- How worms are good for the soil

20-30  
mins

KS1  
& 2

## Teacher preparation

Collect and prepare equipment.

## Equipment & resources

- An old fish tank or a large sweet or coffee jar
- Soil and sand
- Black paper
- Some leaves
- Some Earthworms

## Main activity

1. Fill the container with layers of soil and sand each about 2.5 cm deep.
2. Water the soil but do not water-log it. It should be watered every few days.
3. To collect your worms pour a strong solution of washing-up liquid and water on to an area of lawn and wait for the worms to emerge.
4. Put the worms into the wormery, spread a thin layer of gravel on top and cover with dead leaves or grass cuttings. This is food for the worms.
5. Cover the wormery with a dark cloth or wrap a sheet of black paper around it. Leave in a cool place, never in bright or direct sunlight as the worms will die if it is too hot.
6. Leave the wormery alone for a few days then take a look. You will see tunnels through the soil layers. The worms will also have been pulling the dead leaves down into the soil. There may be worm casts on or near the surface. Worms swallow soil as they plough through it. The worms constant burrowing through soil helps put air into it and mixes all the minerals, keeping the soil in good condition.
7. In a few more days the layers of soil will be completely mixed.
8. When you have finished the activity, empty the wormery onto a tray and examine the soil. You might find a number of small brown oval shaped objects the size of a grain of rice. These are egg cocoons.
9. Put the soil and worms back in the garden

**NEVER FORGET ABOUT THE WORMERY - REMEMBER WORMS NEED FOOD AND WATER**