

EDUCATION

(2009)

 EDU 004

A wormery lets you observe the life of earthworms.

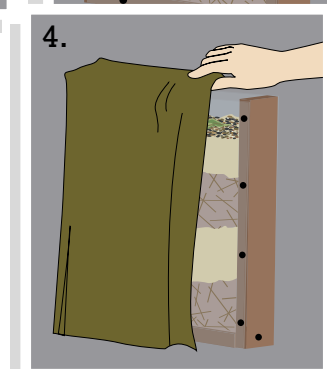
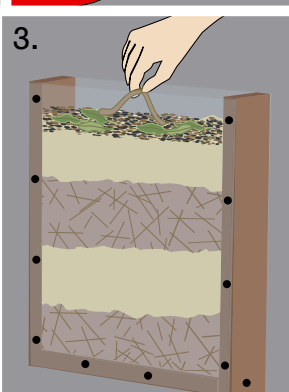
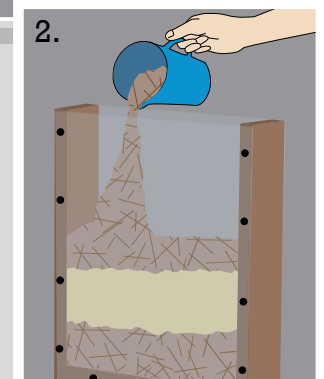
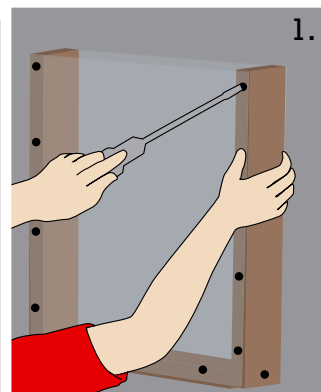
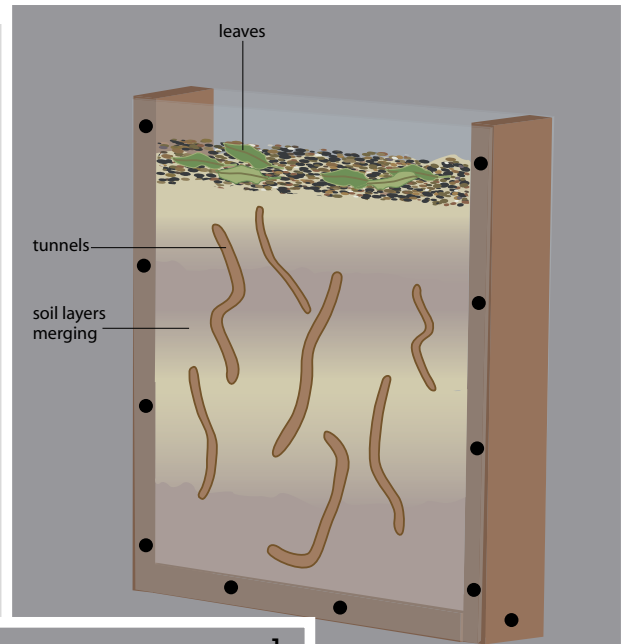
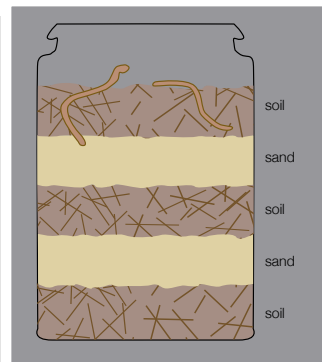
You can make a wormery with 2 sheets of transparent plastic 30 cm square, screwed on to a wooden frame.

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. Worms can die in bright sunshine.
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 seen enough, 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.

A much more simple wormery can be made using a large plastic sweet jar, or a glass coffee jar big enough for 3 or 4 worms.

WHAT YOU NEED

- a coffee jar
- soil and sand
- black paper
- a few leaves
- 3 or 4 earthworms



NEVER FORGET ABOUT THE WORMERY

REMEMBER WORMS NEED FOOD AND WATER