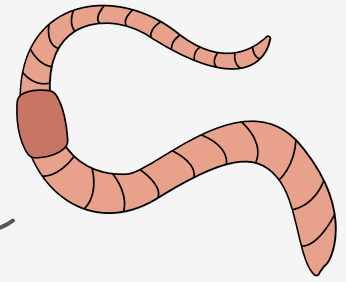


FUN FACTS About Worms



WORMS ARE NATURE'S PLOWS & THE FINAL CLEAN UP CREW IN COMPOSTING!

Body

NO eyes,
NO ears,
NO nose
NO teeth
NO backbone
No legs

No backbone - worms can twist and even tie themselves into a knot!

Muscles run lengthwise and in circles like belts along each segment (segments are marked by the lines).

No legs - instead worms have setae - 8 bristles that extend and retract from each segment. Setae act like legs, helping the worm pull itself forward or backward, and even grip the earth if a bird is trying to pull it from the ground!

No teeth: they scoop food with their mouth, food travels through the gizzard where dirt helps grind it and digestive juices break it down.

Worm poop is called "castings" and it looks like coffee grounds.

Senses

How does a worm eat? If it's day or night? How does it breathe?

NO EYES, NO EARS: their nervous system senses light and vibration. So if a bird lands nearby or the sun shines on them, they sense danger and burrow.

NO NOSE: Worms breathe through their skin so worm skin must stay damp - if it gets too dry they suffocate, too wet, they drown.

Crazy facts

> Worms have 5 hearts!

> Worms have both male and female body parts! But they still need another worm to fertilize their eggs.

> Worms reproduce every 7-10 days!

> The largest worm is 6 feet long and is found in Gippland Australia. You can hear it move underground

> 10,000 years ago ice covered most of northern and central United States and killed all earthworms.

Today, most worms in the USA descended from worms carried over by European immigrants!