



## ACTIVITY SHEET

December 2008

### Why talk about EARTHWORMS?



Aren't they gross, those creepy crawlers, oozing themselves side to side in a bed of slime, tangling themselves together into a pulsating mass? But they play the most important part in the ecosystem!

Earthworms have been dubbed "nature's tiny farmers" because of their ability to help plow, aerate, hydrate and fertilize the earth and produce plant food. So next time you encounter a worm, even if its in your own house after a rainy day, take care not to squash or kill it.

Name.....

School Name .....

Class..... Date.....

**Gobar Gyan:** Usually earthworms are hard to find, since they love dark and damp spaces under the earth. Ever noticed a tangled mess of earthworms on the sidewalk after a rainy day? These amazing creatures can even help you manage the waste produced in your own house! Let's find out how...

Activity 1: Take a walk down to a park near your house or peep into your own garden. See a patch of earth covered with vegetation? Try to locate a few creepy crawlies on leaves, on the stems and in the ground. Describe them by colour and appearance.

**Worm**

**Description**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Did you notice any earthworms? Probably not.

**Gobar Gyan:** Every acre of soil is home to as many as 1 million worms. So what's so special about earthworms, and how do they help us? Did you know that an earthworm can consume about 1/2 of its weight each day? Do you eat that much? (I hope not!) Let's see how the great appetite of these little creatures is of use to us...



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**Gobar Gyan:** Charles Darwin, the famous scientist who came up with the theory of evolution, once had this to say about the earthworm: "The plow is one of the most ancient and most valuable of man's inventions; but long before he existed, the land was in fact regularly plowed and still continues to be thus plowed by earthworms. It may be doubted whether there are many other animals which have played so important a part in the history of the world, as have these lowly organized creatures."



**Activity 4:** Just like in Activity 2, make a list of the amount of kitchen waste your house generates in a week. Only this time, use your vermi-compost bin to collect whatever waste your earthworms can eat, leaving out dairy or poultry products.

<b>DAY</b>	<b>AMOUNT OF WASTE IN KGS.</b>
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
Total	_____

Noticed a change in the amount of kitchen waste you generated?



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If you found the activity sheet interesting, E-mail us at [eeu@cseindia.org](mailto:eeu@cseindia.org) or write to:  
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