

Activity Sheet



Wonderful Worms

by Linda Glaser, pictures by Loretta Krupinski

This book encourages an appreciation for the small creatures of the earth by explaining the vital role that earthworms play in the planet's ecosystem, with cross-section illustrations of the worm's underground environment and informative charts.

Before you read this book: Ask students questions such as what do worms look like, where worms live, what they eat. Then sing songs: "Wiggle Worms" or "Nobody likes me" (<http://bussongs.com/songs/nobody-likes-me-worms.php>).

While you read this book: Have some of the children crawl like worms. Can you wiggle like a worm? Stretch yourself out like a worm?

After you read this book: 1. Use crayons to draw wormy patterns on a piece of paper. 2. Pre-cut paper to look like worms. Have the kids decorate each worm to make their own personal Wisconsin Bookworms bookmark!

Try this at home:

1. Go on a worm hunt outside where the kids can be "outdoor experts." Take a clear plastic soda bottle, fill it with some pebbles, then 2 inches of sand, 2 inches of dirt, 2 inches of sand, and 2 more inches of dirt. Put a piece of food (a leaf or a few pieces of cereal) in the bottle for some worm food. Then add some worms, you will be able to watch the dirt mix with the sand as the worms move!
2. Take your child on a walk around your home or neighborhood. Invite him or her to look in the grass for caterpillars, grasshoppers, and other insects (be sure these are friendly insects). When you find one, encourage your child to look at it closely and notice details like shape, color, and any markings it has on its body. Ask questions like "What is it doing in the grass or on the leaf?" and "Does it look like it's trying to hide?" Introduce the word **camouflage** if you like, but don't expect your child to use it yet.

WISCONSIN BOOKWORMS™: Giving young children an opportunity to be read to and own their first new books, this project is supported by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting with additional funding provided by Friends of WPT, WAHCE and local county-based partners.