



Worm Charming



The Task

Investigate how many worms you can find over a specific area of grass, soil or mud.

How?

- Find a suitable area of ground, football pitch, grassy field, open land.
- Mark out a designated 'search' area with sticks or ropes, 2 metres by 2 metres would be a good start.
- Prepare a soil filled container ready to safely collect your new wormy friends.
- Stamp, jump, tap and drum on the ground within your search area for around 5 minutes.
- Carefully collect the worms in your container as they arrive at the surface - take care, remember they are alive!
- How many worms did you find over a designated period of time? Perhaps 5 minutes of searching and collecting.

Considerations

- Did one area produce more worms than another?
- Is wet ground better than dry ground?
- Why do worms respond to vibrations?
- Do any other animals use this technique? Think about the food chain...

What will you need?

Sticks or rope to mark an area.
Container to collect worms.
Soil or mud for bottom of container.
Pen and paper to record results.





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Organisation & Layout

- Choose an open space, ideally on soil, mud or grass.
- Use any natural resources to mark out 'stomping zone'. Even just 4 corners will work.
- Spread groups/individuals out around you for easy group management.
- Give specific time limits, a whistle may be useful if over a large area.

Learning Objectives

- Effects of soundwaves and vibrations.
- Preferred habitats and soil conditions.
- Food chain, how birds attract worms.
- What do worms eat?
- Understanding our eco-system.

Safety Information

- Choosing a suitable location, with prior check for sharps if deemed necessary.
- Keep everyone in sight, at all times.
- Keep instructions clear and specific.
- Highlight importance of preserving life!
- Ensure thorough hand washing afterwards.

Review & Assessment

- Count & compare number of worms gathered.
- Was there a reason one area was better than another?
- Has the weather today, or recently effected results?
- Was there a preferred type of movement?
- What is it that attracts worms to the surface?
- Discuss the food chain.



Additional Links & Support

[Blairvadach Worm Charming – YouTube](#)

[What is a Worm – Wiki](#)

[What is a food chain – BBC Bitesize](#)