

Worms

Worms might not be the most beautiful animals but they are very important for our planet. They have existed for about 600 million years. There are about 34,000 different types of worm. Many are so small you wouldn't be able to see them without a microscope! Worms dig through the soil, creating tiny tunnels, letting in water and air, which are both needed by plants. Every gardener knows that a healthy garden needs plenty of worms. To help them slide through the ground, worms produce slime on their skin. This slime lets them move easily and is also very good for helping the soil to grow plants.



Most common types of worm

The night crawler - These worms normally come out after dark because they are nocturnal.

The angleworm – These worms are most commonly used by fishermen as bait.

The rainworm - These worms leave tunnels so that soil is full of water after the rain.

Did you know?

The longest worm ever found was in South Africa and it was about 7 metres long!

Why worms are amazing!

- Worms are not boys or girls, they are both!
- If a worm's tail is cut off, it can grow it back.
- A worm has no arms, legs or eyes but they are able to travel a long way.
- A worm can eat as much as it weighs in a single day!
- Because worms don't have lungs, they breathe through their skin.
- Worms are about 1000 times stronger than people.

Worms hatch out of eggs. When they hatch, they are like adult worms just very, very tiny.

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