



# Nature Close-Up: Earthworms



## IN A NUTSHELL

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### SUBJECTS

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Science

This book about worms is for younger readers. The first chapter addresses basic information about earthworms, including how they eat, dig and reproduce. Chapter two covers caring for and displaying captive earthworms and includes a discussion of their use in composting. The final chapter contains activities for exploring earthworm biology and behavior. Readers are provided with lists of required materials, instructions, and help in developing and assessing hypotheses. Activities include determining what worms eat and how they respond to light, searching for evidence of earthworms around the home, and testing the effects of earthworms on plants. The book is illustrated with full-color photographs and includes a glossary, index, suggestions for further reading, and lists of suppliers of earthworms and related materials.

**Grade Level**  
3-5

**Length**  
48 pages

**Date Published**  
1997

**THE** **BOTTOM**  
**L I N E**

"This book might be overlooked by older students because it looks like a 'baby' book, when indeed it is very informative."

What the REVIEWERS Said !	Key Characteristics	Strengths Noted	Other Considerations
	Fairness and Accuracy	Information appears accurate. Encourages reader to learn about worms independently.	Little discussion of worms' value in agriculture as well as urban settings.
	Depth	Content is logical and provides thorough treatment of earth-worm biology.	Facts not well integrated into an ecological context.
	Emphasis on Skills Building	Teaches observation, data gathering, and data interpretation skills.	
	Action Orientation	Not Applicable.	
	Instructional Soundness	Very learner-centered; encourages learner to conduct own experiments, make inferences, and share information with others.	Topic not integrated with other subject areas. Goals not stated.
	Usability	Format is inviting, easy to use. Materials are accessible to most students. Can be adapted to most classroom situations.	

"Introduces and uses scientific method. A very user friendly book for young scientists and first-timers."

"Strong on biological characteristics but weak on ecological concepts."