

IN MY GARDEN - EARTHWORMS

Earthworms and other much smaller creatures (**microorganisms**) are responsible for **healthy** soil. Earthworms bring dead **leaves** (**organic matter**) into the ground. They create small tunnels that let air and water into the **soil**. Their poo is an excellent fertiliser (nutrient). Plants will grow strong and healthy in your garden if earthworms bring air, water and nutrients into the soil.



Some common Irish earthworms can live for up to 8 years and healthy soil can have as many as 250 earthworms in a 1 square metre area. Earthworms are also a very **important** food for other animals, including Blackbirds and Badgers.

ONLINE NATURE:

- wicklowmountainsnationalpark.ie
- biodiversity.ie
- birdwatchireland.ie
- met.ie
- mothsireland.com
- mountaineering.ie
- npws.ie
- orienteering.ie
- wildflowersofireland.net

Worm word puzzle

Move left or right, up or down and find the words

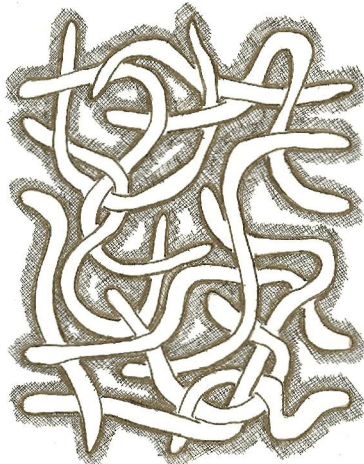
start

E	T	H	L	E	A	V	C	M
A	R	W	Y	O	S	E	I	A
M	R	O	H	R	G	A	N	T
S	M	I	T	L	A	R	E	T
R	O	C	S	H	E	S	O	I
G	O	R	M	O	P	M	I	L
A	N	I	S	R	T	A	N	T

finish

Hint: The words are the darker ones (in bold) at the top of the page

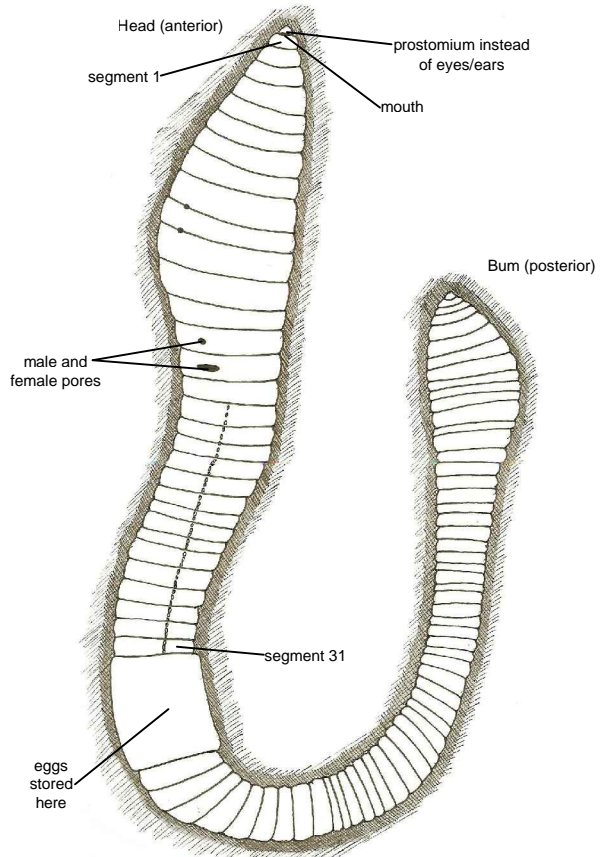
How many earthworms can you count?



Hint: It helps if you colour them in

Common Irish earthworm

Why not colour it in?



See if you can find the bodyparts on an Earthworm in your Garden

TO DO:

- Write a song to praise the earthworms work in the soil. Get Mam or Dad to sing it with you to the earthworms in your garden
- Lie on grass, pretend you have no arms or legs like an earthworm. Try and move over a fixed distance and time yourself. Now try and do it in a better time. No rolling!
Time taken: _____

