

Earthworms Do Good Work



Photo Credit: Earthdirt

Earthworms live underground. Do you know how wiggly worms help plants?

Earthworms dig tunnels in the dirt. The tunnels help bring air and water into the dirt. That keeps the dirt wet and healthy.

Earthworms eat dirt and leaves as they make tunnels. They leave their droppings in the dirt. Those droppings help the dirt stay healthy. Plants grow well in healthy dirt.

Some people buy earthworms to put in their gardens. Those people want to keep the dirt healthy!

Name: _____ Date: _____

Directions: For questions 1-4, circle the correct answer.

1. What lives underground, is wiggly, and helps plants grow?

- a) grubs
- b) birds
- c) earthworms

2. What does this passage want you to know about earthworms?

- a) Earthworms do good work because they help plants grow.
- b) Earthworms are slimy and disgusting. Never touch them.
- c) Earthworms are bad for your garden because they eat your plants.

3. Earthworm tunnels and droppings keep dirt wet and healthy. Plants grow well in healthy dirt. What does this information tell us about what plants need to grow?

- a) Plants need to eat earthworm droppings to grow.
- b) Plants take in water and other things from the dirt to grow.
- c) Plants need to eat earthworms to grow.

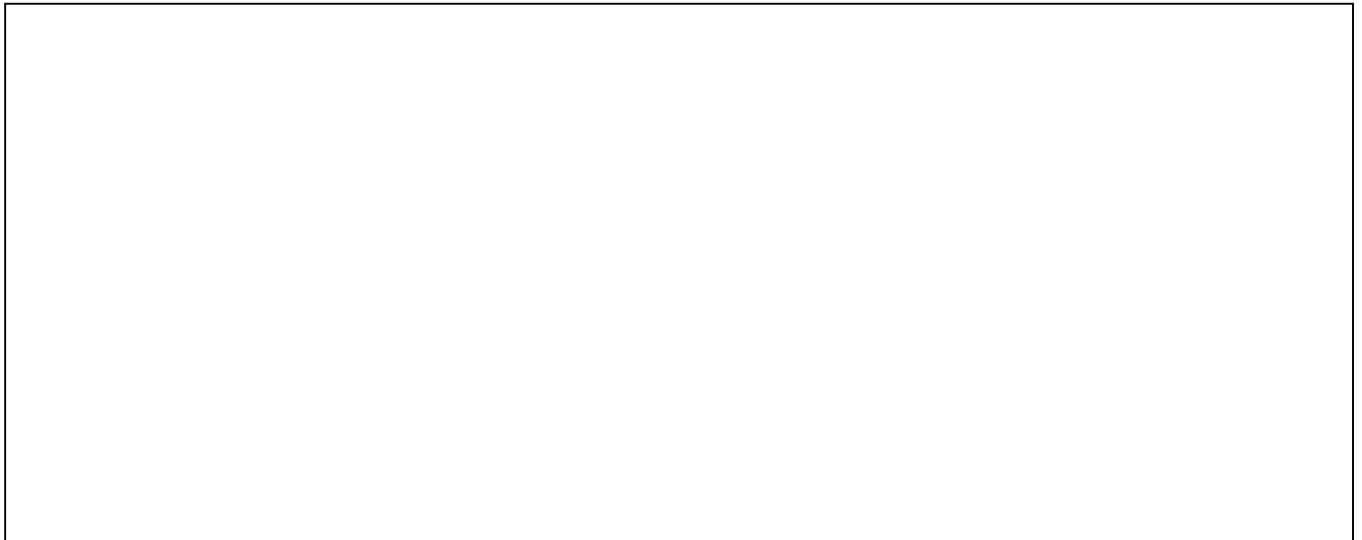
4. What is the main lesson in "Earthworms Do Good Work"?

- a) Earthworms keep dirt healthy, which helps plants grow.
- b) Earthworms live underground and they eat dirt and leaves.
- c) Earthworms are dangerous, especially to plants and people.

5. A) What do earthworms make that help bring air and water into dirt?

Earthworms bring air and water into dirt by making

B) Draw a picture of an earthworm in the dirt.



6. What did you learn from "Earthworms Do Good Work"?

7. **Class Discussion Question:** Explain why someone might want to buy earthworms for his or her garden.

Teacher Guide & Answers

Note to Teacher: Read each question out loud to your students and have each student complete the worksheet independently. For questions 5 A) and 6, you can have students draw their answers, answer orally, or write their answers depending on your students' progress. If you have them write their answers, you may want to write the word(s) on the board for them to copy. Question 7 is a class discussion question.

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 510

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1. What lives underground, is wiggly, and helps plants grow?
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 - b) birds
 - c) **earthworms**

2. What does this passage want you to know about earthworms?
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3. Earthworm tunnels and droppings keep dirt wet and healthy. Plants grow well in healthy dirt. What does this information tell us about what plants need to grow?
 - a) Plants need to eat earthworm droppings to grow.
 - b) **Plants take in water and other things from the dirt to grow.**
 - c) Plants need to eat earthworms to grow.

4. What is the main lesson in "Earthworms Do Good Work"?
 - a) **Earthworms keep dirt healthy, which helps plants grow.**
 - b) Earthworms live underground and they eat dirt and leaves.
 - c) Earthworms are dangerous, especially to plants and people.

5. A) *Note to Teacher: See note at the top of the first page.*

What do earthworms make that help bring air and water into dirt?

Suggested answer: Earthworms bring air and water into dirt by making *tunnels*.

- B) Draw a picture of an earthworm in the dirt.

Suggested answer: Students' pictures may vary but should include a worm underground leaving a tunnel behind it. Advanced pictures might also include small worm droppings or bits of leaves in the dirt that the earthworm is eating.

6. *Note to Teacher: See note at the top of the first page.*

What did you learn from "Earthworms Do Good Work"?

Suggested answer: Answers may vary and should be supported by the passage.

7. *Note to Teacher: See note at the top of the first page.*

Class Discussion Question: Explain why someone might want to buy earthworms for his or her garden.

Suggested answer: Answers may vary but students should explain that earthworms help keep garden soil healthy. They make tunnels in the dirt, which bring air and water into the dirt. Their droppings also help the dirt stay healthy. This healthy dirt would help the plants in the garden to grow.