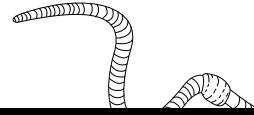
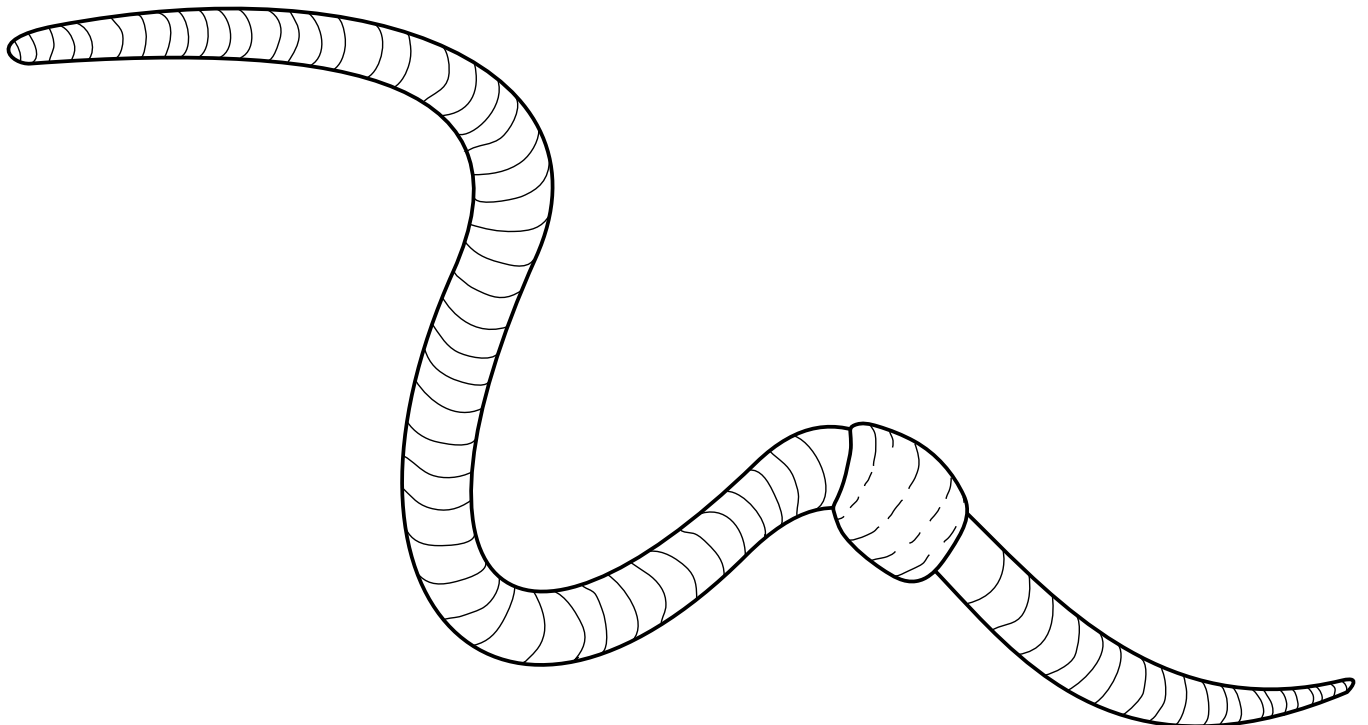


Teachers Notes

WORM WORLD



WORM WORLD



WORM WORLD

WORM WORLD is a fascinating resource for your Primary Classroom.

If the instructions in the care manual are followed your class will benefit from many hours of close wildlife observation.

These notes have been produced to give you a bank of practical classroom activities, with photocopiable pages to enable you to get the best out of your **WORM WORLD** in your classroom.

They are designed primarily to help in planning and implementing the National Curriculum Science *Life Processes and Living Things* Key Stages 1 and 2. There are also opportunities to cover *Experimental and Investigative Science*, in particular the obtaining evidence section.

There are links with the requirements of the *Literacy Hour* for non-fiction work, for example: reading and following directions/instructions, writing captions, assembling information, writing descriptions, lists and observations.

The children's observations can give real opportunities for *Data Handling*.

The **WORM WORLD** leaflet that comes with your kit contains information about worms. You may find it useful to photocopy it for groups of children to use as a resource when carrying out the activities in these notes.

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

WORMS ACTIVITY ONE (KS1/2)

This is best done just after the kit has been introduced to the children. A group could be given the job of assembling **WORM WORLD** getting it ready for the worms. The **WORM WORLD** leaflet tells you what to do on page 2. Don't forget to have some sieved damp garden soil ready as the 4th tunnelling material. The children could be asked to produce a list of assembly instructions for a younger class to follow. See **WORMS ACTIVITY SHEET ONE**.

WORMS ACTIVITY TWO (KS1/2)

This activity asks the children to think about the habitat of the worm. The children could be asked to take **WORMS ACTIVITY SHEET TWO** sheet home and think about where they might find worms in their garden or places near where they live, or use the sheet when thinking about the worms habitat around the school's grounds.

WORMS ACTIVITY THREE (KS1/2)

Using **WORMS ACTIVITY SHEET THREE** sheet the children could draw and label the worms found to put in **WORM WORLD**. They might find different types and lengths of worm. Once a group of children have completed this activity they could use the data to create a simple graph.

WORMS ACTIVITY FOUR (KS1/2)

Make up a book of the picture of the front of **WORM WORLD**. (**WORMS ACTIVITY SHEET FOUR**) Select a child each day to record pictorially the course of the tunnels. The children could write down at the bottom of the page their observations of the worms' behaviour while they are watching them. They could make a note about how the different soil layers have moved. After a week, or longer, of observations they could be compared to see if there are any patterns to their behaviour. Also included is a reduced size picture of the **WORM WORLD** front for a small book of observations on a science/nature table.

CLASSROOM ACTIVITIES

WORMS ACTIVITY FIVE

Earthworms feed on the remains of dead plants found in the ground. They eat soil as they tunnel, extracting their food from it. They also feed on leaves and other plant remains that they collect from the surface. Using WORMS ACTIVITY SHEET FIVE let the children experiment with different worm foods (leaves, grass cuttings, vegetable peelings) They could compare their data to find out what the worms like best.

WORMS ACTIVITY SIX (KS1)

Photocopy WORMS ACTIVITY SHEET SIX. Get the children to cut the labels from the bottom of the page and stick them near the appropriate part of the Worm's body, or they could match the label to the body part with a line.

WORMS ACTIVITY SEVEN (KS2)

This activity aims to get the children to research on his/her own. You may like to use WORMS ACTIVITY SHEET SEVEN. There is a book list included in this pack, there will be other sources for information such as the internet and encyclopedias. The children should be encouraged to make their own bibliography and use their own observations.

WORMS ACTIVITY EIGHT (KS1/2)

WORMS ACTIVITY SHEET EIGHT is a simple missing word activity. The words at the bottom of the page could be removed to make it more of a challenge.

ALSO INCLUDED IN THIS PACK

A page of pictures of worms to use when creating worksheets, or for scanning into the computer to illustrate project work.

A fact sheet about worms.

A book list

WORMS ACTIVITY SHEET ONE

Follow the instructions for setting up **WORM WORLD** ready for your worms.

See if you can write a set of instructions for setting up **WORM WORLD** for someone else to follow.

Name

WORMS ACTIVITY SHEET TWO

Write down some places where you think you might find some worms for your **WORM WORLD**.

.....
.....
.....

Now draw and label the places you found worms.

What types of places do they like to live?

.....
.....
.....
.....

Name

WORMS ACTIVITY SHEET THREE

Look closely at your worm. You could use a magnifying glass. What do you see? See if you can draw and label the different parts.

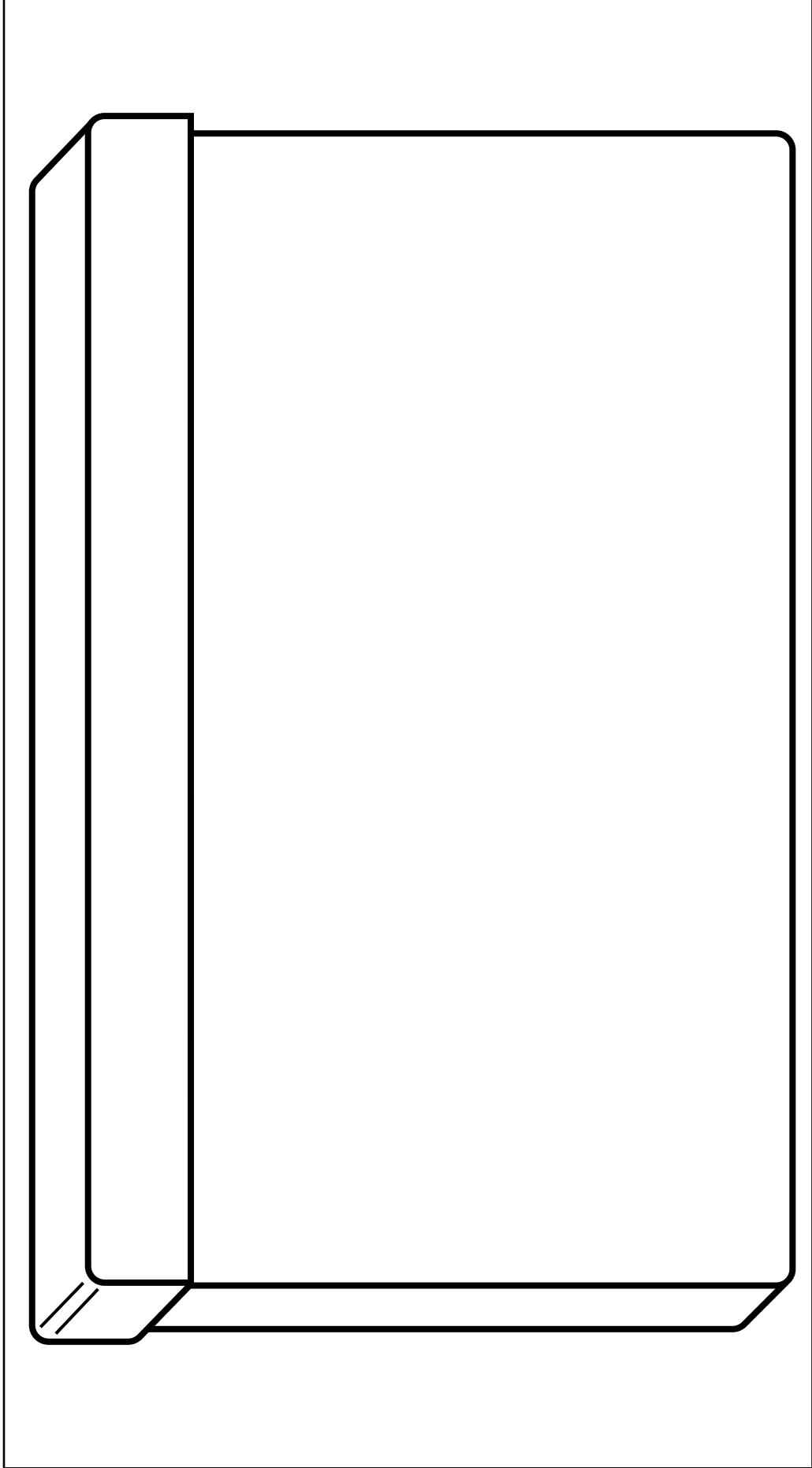
How long is your worm?

Look for these parts of your worm:

The *mouth*, the saddle, the *annuli* (the rings around the worm's body), tiny hairs called *setae*.

Name

WORMS ACTIVITY SHEET FOUR



WORMS ACTIVITY SHEET FIVE

FOOD

Your worms mainly feed on the remains of dead plants found in the ground. They eat soil as they tunnel, taking their food from it. The unwanted soil is then passed out in the form of a cast. Worms also feed on leaves and other plant material that they collect from the surface of the ground and pull down into their burrows. Use this sheet to try out different foods and record what happens to each food placed in the **WORM WORLD**.

FEEDING RECORD

Date

Type of food

How long before the food is noticed?

.....
.....

Describe what happens when the worm finds the food

.....
.....
.....

Is the food carried away? Describe what happens.

.....
.....
.....

What happens to the food when it is down in the burrow?

.....
.....
.....

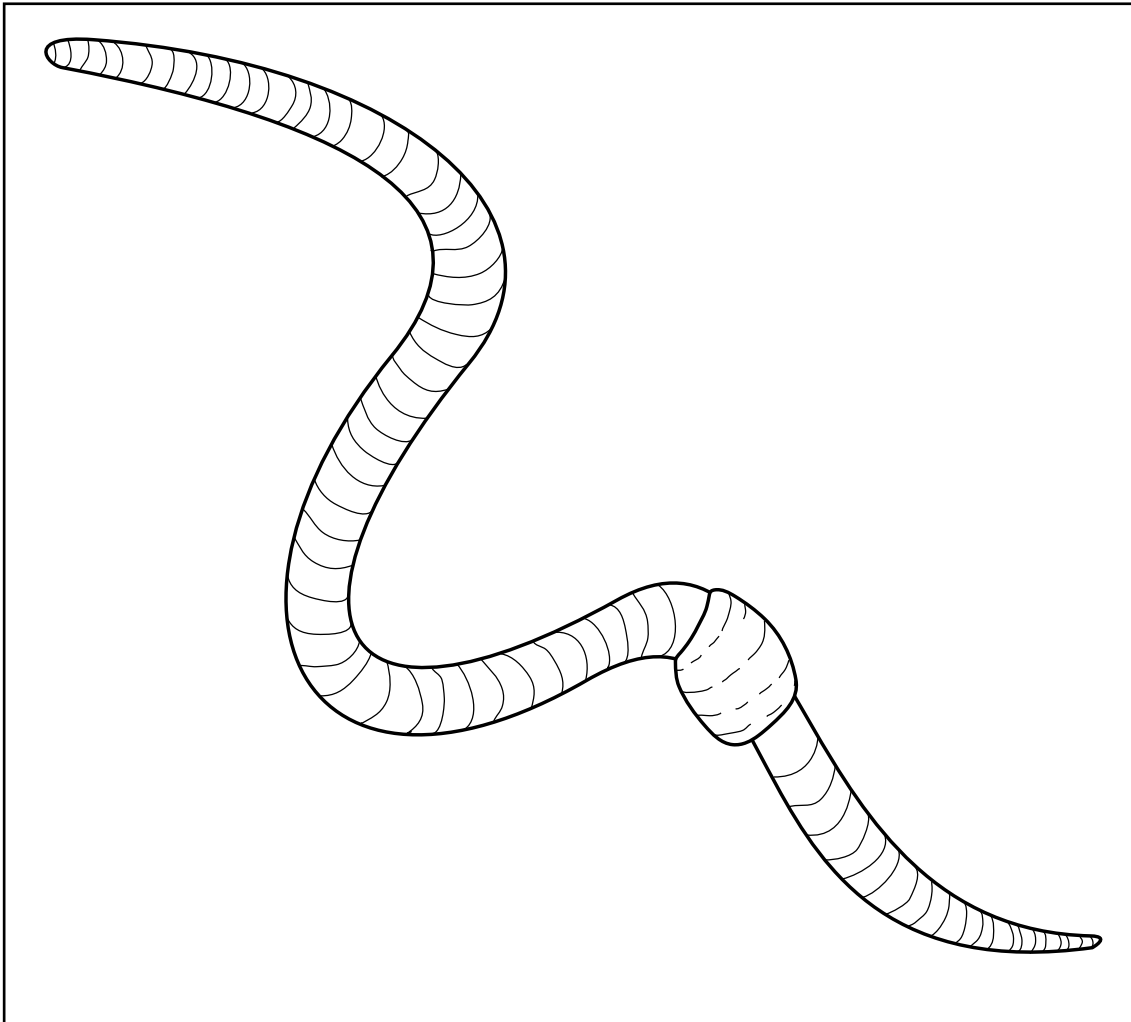
Write down any thing else you notice about the worms' feeding habits.

.....
.....
.....

Name

WORMS ACTIVITY SHEET SIX

The common earthworm's scientific name is *Lumbricus terrestris* and it belongs to a family of animals called *annelids* (worms with segmented bodies)



Name

Mouth

Saddle

Segments -*annuli*

Hairs - *setae*

WORMS ACTIVITY SHEET SEVEN

Use all the research facilities available to find out more about worms. (Libraries, Internet, school books etc.) You could find out general facts about worms that would be of interest to you and your class or research one aspect of their life such as habitat, feeding, or movement.

Use the following ideas to get you started. This is only a guide, list your own questions. Don't forget to note where you found the information.

What and how do worms eat?

Find out about how worms reproduce.

Investigate their predators.

Why are worms important?

How do worms move?

Name

WORMS ACTIVITY SHEET EIGHT

Name.....

See if you can fill in the missing words in this writing about worms. Use the words at the bottom of the page.

Worms live and they
through the soil.

They feed on the and dead
leaving on the surface of the ground.

The worms help farmers and gardeners by letting more
..... into the soil and by helping the
..... drain away.

soil

tunnel

rain

underground

leaves

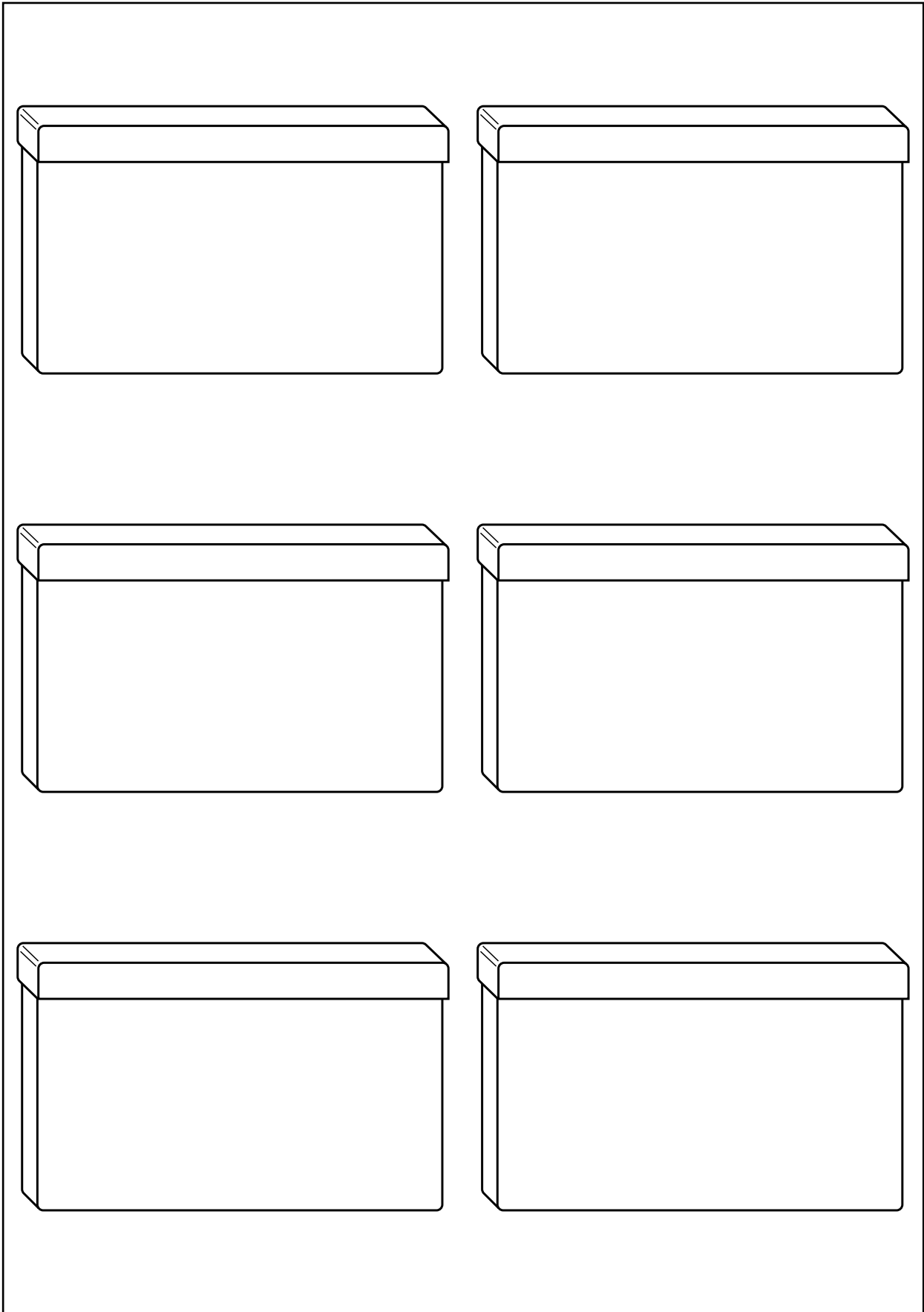
air

casts

SOME FACTS ABOUT WORMS

- Earthworms are able to push objects ten times their own weight.
- An earthworm was found in South Africa measuring 6.7m.
- Another name for the earthworm is *annelid*. It is part of a group of animals called invertebrates.
- Worms in Britain can reach 30cm in length.
- Birds can trick worms to the surface of the earth by tapping or pecking the ground pretending it is the sound of rain.
- You can hear the sounds of the worm's tiny hairs (*setae*) working by putting a worm on a piece of paper and placing the paper on the edge of a table putting your ear very close to the edge of the paper.
- Worms can burrow underground to a depth of 2m.
- Earthworms are *hermaphrodites* with both male and female reproductive organs.
- It has been said that earthworms represent 60% of the weight of all living animals.

WORM WORLD



WORMS BOOK LIST

The **WORM WORLD** booklet provides plenty of interesting facts about worms. However you may like to find out more, the books listed below are recommended, also encyclopedias and general books about insects and minibeasts.

Many schools and children have access to the internet, searches could be made and classes may find they are able to communicate their findings with other schools around the world who are also investigating the life of the earthworm.

Earthworms ~ Barrie Watts/Chris Henwood Published 1993 Franklin Watts

Mini beasts: Earthworms ~ C. Llewellyn Published 2000 Franklin Watts

Earthworms, Dirt, and Rotten Leaves ~ Molly McLaughlin Published 1986 Simon&Schuster

Into Science: Earthworms ~ Terry Jennings/David Anstey Published 1988 Oxford University Press

The Earthworm ~ E. Delessert

WORMS CLASSROOM FEEDBACK SHEET

We would appreciate your comments about your teacher pack notes and any other ideas you might have about using **WORM WORLD** in the classroom.

You can write to us, e.mail or fax us back on this form.



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