School Education Program

Vermicomposting Vocabulary List

Landfill - an area of land designed to handle the disposal of solid waste. The garbage is usually spread out, compacted, and covered with dirt or other material in order to protect the environment in and around the landfill. The landfill is the final destination and the permanent home for anything we put in the garbage bin.

Vermicomposting – a special type of recycling where we take food scraps and feed it to worms. They eat it up and make nice rich soil that can be used as fertilizer.

Red wigglers – a type of earthworm used for composting, as they are nature's ultimate composting worms.

Worm bin – a container for composting with worms to turn food scraps into fertilizer.

Cycle – a series of events that happen again and again and often lead back to the starting point forming a circle in shape.

Decomposer - an organism, including fungi, bacteria and invertebrates, that consumes and breaks down rotting organic material and helps return the nutrients back to the earth.

Clitellum – a raised band encircling the body of an adult earthworm made up of reproductive segments.

Setae – hair-like structures on earthworms that help worms move or stay in place.

Gizzard – a muscular organ where worms store little rocks and pebbles to help grind up their food, as worms do not have teeth to chew their food.

Intestines – long tubes in the body of living organisms that help to digest food and absorb nutrients and water. Intestines also carry waste matter to be released.

Castings – waste released from worms, its odorless and known as the richest natural fertilizer; also known as worm poop.

Hermaphrodite – an animal having both male and female reproductive organs.

Cocoon – a small lemon shaped case containing worm eggs that forms on the outside of a worm's body and slides off of the worms head. On average, 3-6 baby worms will emerge from the cocoon after about a month.

Worm tea – liquid fertilizer that comes from the moisture in a worm bin or soaking worm castings in water.