JULY 2023



Ag in the Classroom Book of the Month

Harriet's Hungry Worms by Samantha Smith

This funny, engaging eco story invites young readers to follow the adventures of Harriet's ravenous compost worms as they munch their way through their wide and wonderful weekly menu. Harriet's nine-hundred-and-eighty-three hungry worms live in a shady corner of her backyard in a big, green box. They spend their days munching on anything from Aunt Tilda's herbal teabags to the sports pages of Uncle Sam's paper. Harriet watches and waits, eventually deciding the worms are 'so BORING.' Until one day, the worms leave Harriet a big surprise ... worm wee! Packed with worm facts, Harriet's Hungry Worms is the ideal companion for worm warriors and curious composters keen to roll their sleeves up and put their kitchen food scraps to good use. Continuing the sustainability message, inventive illustrations incorporating recycled materials bloom from each page, breathing beautiful life into this fun-filled story.



Fun Facts:

- The most common earthworms used in vermicomposting are the red wrigglers and the European live night crawlers.
- The average lifespan of an earthworm is a year.
- Compost worms eat on average half their own weight in food every day
- Compost worms love kitchen scraps and organic matter such as vegetable and fruit scraps, used tea bags, crushed eggshells, grass clippings and dry leaves
- Red wiggler worms, under good conditions, can lay two to four cocoons in a week. Each cocoon contains about 4 to 6 baby worms and the eggs will usually go through an incubation process of 23 days.

Videos:

- <u>Agventures: Piney Woods Farm in Troup County</u>
- Farm Monitor: New School Program That Teaches Composting
- Farm Monitor: Ranger Nick: Composting At UGA
- Pumpkin vs Red Wigglers 62-day time-lapse FAST PLAYBACK worm vermicomposting
- Worms Are Wonderful | Amazing Animals | Backyard Science | SciShow Kids

Activities:

- Coloring page and bookmark about worms
- Recipe: Dirt Cup with Worms
- Wormery:
 - Build Your Own Wormery
 - How to Build a Wormery Worksheet
 - o <u>Instructional Video</u>
 - Worm Journal
- Earthworm vs. Gummy Worm Activity
- DIY-In Ground Worm Bin
- STEM Challenge: Create a Worm Farm
- Lesson Plan: Vermicomposting <u>K-2</u> and <u>3-5</u>
- Earthworms Can, Have, Are and Need paper
- Life Cycle of an Earthworm
- Earthworm Experiment

Visit gfb.ag/aitc for more agtivities