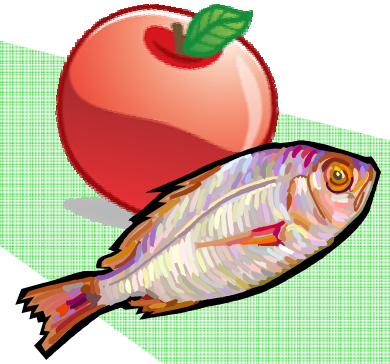


Worm Races



QUESTION: How fast can worms crawl?

MATERIALS:

- balance
- earthworms
- magnifying lens
- metric ruler
- newspaper
- paper towels
- stop watch
- water

PROCEDURE:

1. Select a worm from the tray and describe it. Record your descriptions in the Data table.
2. Identify the following parts on your worm:
 - front
 - back
 - top
 - bottom
 - mouth
 - segments
 - clitellum
3. Experiment with your worm to find out how to best make your worm move fast and straight.
4. Calculate the speed of your worm by finding out how long it takes it to crawl 20 cm. Record your worm's speed in the Data Table.
5. Enter your worm in the GREAT AMERICAN EARTHWORM RACE.

DATA:

FEATURE	DESCRIPTION
Length	
Width	
Mass	
Color	
Smell	
Speed	

GREAT AMERICAN EARTHWORM RACE: THE RULES

1. Using newspaper, make a circle 50 cm in diameter. Mark a 5 cm circle in the center of the newspaper circle.
2. Wet down the newspaper so it is quite damp.
3. Race only two worms at a time by placing them in the 5 cm circle in the center of the newspaper.
4. The first worm to reach any edge is the winner.

THINGS TO KEEP IN MIND:

Worms are ectotherms (cold-blooded). This means their bodies change with temperature. A warm worm is likely to go faster than a cold worm. A wet worm is likely to go faster than a dry worm. Worms can be heated or cooled by placing them in warm or cool water for 30 seconds.

Worms are living creatures and should be cared for appropriately. When releasing worms, be sure they are released in a cool area where there is damp soil that they can burrow into.