Worms Eat Our Garbage
Earthworms help aerate and enrich soil.

Earthworms eat soil and organic matter.

Redworms (Red Wigglers) make compost.

Redworms eat organic waste.
Worm composting is Vermicomposting.

This is a perfect way to show “natural” recycling.

Worms eat food scraps, leaving behind dark castings, (worm manure) called vermicompost.

This is a nitrogen-rich natural fertilizer used in vegetable and flower gardens.
Vermicomposting offers your class a multitude of ways to enrich math, science and language arts by:

- Teaching students to recycle food waste.
- Identify shape & body structures of a worm.
- How does a worm survive without eyes or lungs?
- Using a magnify glass or microscope to view the mouth, segments, muscles, reproductive areas and cocoons.
- Observing worm hydraulic movement on 3 different surfaces noting contractions and direction.
Redworms need: food, water, air & shelter.

Creation of the worm ecosystem includes:
Bin, Damp Bedding & Food Scraps

Other small, microscopic organisms will appear in your bin to help decompose the food.
Let's Build a Worm Bin

1. Place paper scraps moistened with water in your bin.

2. Put your food scraps in bin. (No meat, fat or dairy items.) Place scraps slightly under bedding.

3. Add your Red Wigglers to your bin and listen to them compost.
Completed Worm Bin

Transfer your worms into an 18 gal. bin with holes and use the smaller bin to share your worms with another teacher.

Maintain your bin weekly by adding fresh bedding and food. (1 cup to 1 lb. of worms.)

Remove excess liquid (tea) from the bottom of your bin with a household turkey baster.

Keep your worm bin indoors, out of the sun, in a quiet place in temperatures of 65-85 degrees.

Harvest your castings and use to plant in your schoolyard habitat.