

Let's go on a SOIL SAFARI

with **MOLEY** and Squirm!



Healthy soils have lots of worms. Take part in a soil safari and discover more about the incredible creatures beneath your feet! Record your findings to learn about the state of soils in your country.

How to find worms

Habitat Hunting

Turn over stones and dead wood, look under leaf litter and dig in bare earth.



Stamping

Worms can be attracted to the surface by vibrations. Get creative with other ways to make vibrations, try dancing, or using a musical instrument!



Soaking

Wet an area of grass, cover it with black plastic (a bin liner will do) and wait for 30 minutes. The water will flood the worms' burrows causing them to come to the surface.



Be gentle with me!
Worms breathe through their delicate skin, so handle them carefully.

Twanging

Put a garden fork into an area of grass and rock it backwards and forwards for 15 minutes.



Count the number of worms you find within a 1 x 1 m area in half an hour. Print this sheet out to help you on your soil safari.

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Did you know?

- Worms can eat their own body weight in food in one day!
- Worm poo enriches the soil with vital nutrients keeping it healthy.
- Worms are really important in the food chain and make a tasty meal for birds, hedgehogs and frogs!

Always remember to put worms back in their home once you've said hello.

There are over 20,000 different species of earthworms on our planet!
Here are the most common types of worm you might find in your garden, allotment, or green space.

Common red worm (Epigeic species)

Lives above ground in leaf litter, under dead wood and in the surface soil. They're a red-brown colour and are between 1-7cm long.



Blue-grey worm (Endogeic species)

Lives underground and moves horizontally through the topsoil. You might also find them beneath your compost bin. They're normally a pale colour and are between 2-12cm long.



European nightcrawler (Anecic species)

Lives underground and moves vertically through burrows deep in the soil (look out for little piles of worm poo on the surface soil to find their burrow entrances!) You're likely to find them deeper in the soil or in your compost bin. They're darkly coloured and are between 15-25cm long.



Report your findings

Use this table to jot down what you find, then share your findings on social media, using the #SoilSafari hashtag

DATE	LOCATION	HOW MANY WORMS	WORM TYPE



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