

Activity: Wormhunt!

<http://www.soil-net.com>

Find out how many worms live in the soil.



Use watering cans.

Find a grassy spot outside in the school grounds and, using lots of watering cans, sprinkle water onto the ground

Wet the soil in one place as much as possible.



Do worms appear after a while? How many can you see?



Why might worms come to the surface when it is wet?

If you didn't see any worms – try looking again on a rainy day....



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This activity helps students to understand how many worms there are in good soil – and there is a huge number!

Watering the soil can be hard, as worms can move sideways as well as up to the surface! But if you are lucky and enough water is poured, some worms will make their way up to the surface.

If this doesn't work – try again on a rainy day. Then all you should have to do is count them!

Worms need air (they don't have lungs – but absorb oxygen through their skin). When it is wet they cannot take in oxygen, so they rise to the surface.

It is also said that stamping on the ground can also work – you will have to decide if you want to encourage that!! Perhaps stamping feels like raindrops hitting the soil?

Some folk take worm charming very seriously!!
See <http://www.wormcharming.com/>

