

THE WORM

Elise Gravel

OH, HI!

ACTIVITY GUIDE



TUNDRA BOOKS

DISGUSTING CRITTERS

DEAR EDUCATOR

The Worm is a hilarious illustrated non-fiction book about the earthworm. It covers such topics as the worm's habitats (sometimes they live inside other animals), its anatomy (its muscle tube is slimy and gross) and its illustrious history (worms have been on earth for 120 million years). Although silly and off-the-wall, *The Worm* contains real information that will tie in with curriculum. The activities and discussion prompts will help your students use what they have learned to identify and describe some of the major physical and behavioral characteristics of the worm and check their understanding of this disgusting critter.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

ELISE GRAVEL has always been fascinated by disgusting little creatures. At three-and-a-half, she founded the Organization for the Defense of Disgusting Critters, of which she was both president and the only member. Nowadays, when she's not busy petting a fly, worm, slug, rat, head lice or a spider, she writes and illustrates strange children's books.



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BUT, WAIT!

Before sharing the book with the class, read out the following clues:

- I am shaped like a tube.
- I can live in many different habitats.
- I don't have any eyes.
- I can help people catch fish.
- What "disgusting critter" am I?

DON'T BE SPINELESS, TELL ME WHAT YOU KNOW!

Discover what your students already know about worms. Consider using the following questions as prompts:

- Where have you seen a worm before?
- What color was it?
- How did it move?
- What did it feel like (or what did you imagine it would feel like)?
- What else do you know about worms?

WORMS ARE DISGUSTING!

Show what you have learned about the worms. Circle the correct answer(s).

What are animals without skeletons called?

- Squishy
- Invertebrates
- Vertebrates
- Disgusting

Which of the following is a worm habitat?

- Human and animal bodies
- Rotting plant
- Toothpaste tube
- Water

What is a photoreceptor?

- One who receives photos
- The name for a worm's eyeball
- What worms use to see light

What do earthworms eat?

- Rotting plants
- Chicken bones
- Rice
- Other worms

How do earthworms move?

- They use their feet
- They roll along the ground
- They squeeze their muscles
- They jump up and down

Worms that live in a human or animal body are called **parasites / maggots**.

Worms have been on earth for **hundreds / billions** of years.

The 115 foot worm that lives in oceans and rivers is called a **white worm / ribbon worm**.

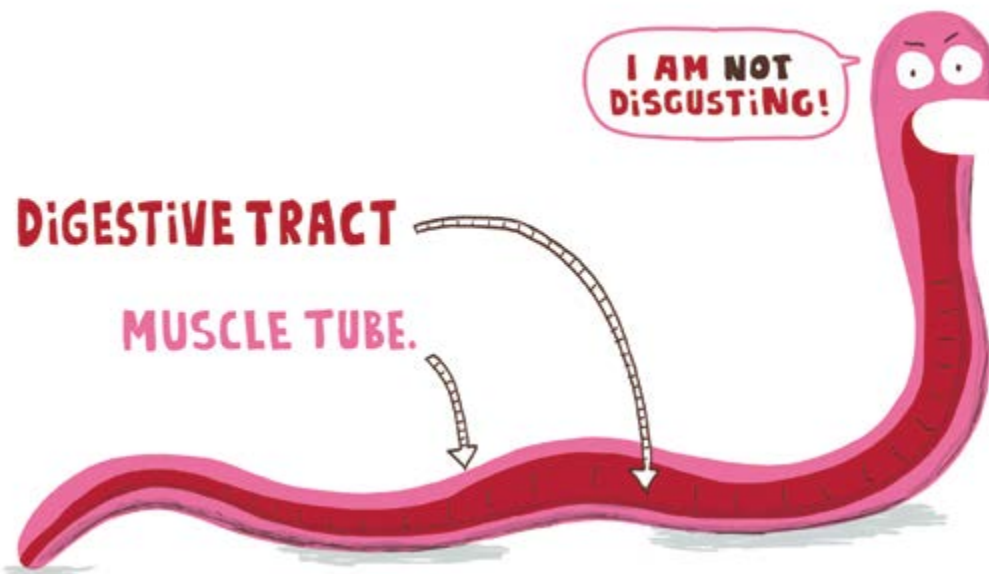
WORM, ER, WORD SCRAMBLE

Use the clues to unscramble the vocabulary you learned in the book.

A long digestive tract inside a muscle tube.	RATEHMORW	
What worms do with their muscles to help them move.	TOCRANCT	
Having both male and female reproductive organs.	PHHEDIRMORETA	
The place where a plant or animal normally lives.	BATTHIA	
What worms do with nature's waste.	LERYCEC	
What worms make that allows air and water to get deeper into the soil.	THPSA	
A baby fly.	GOMATG	
Photoreceptors can be found in the worm's _____.	INKS	

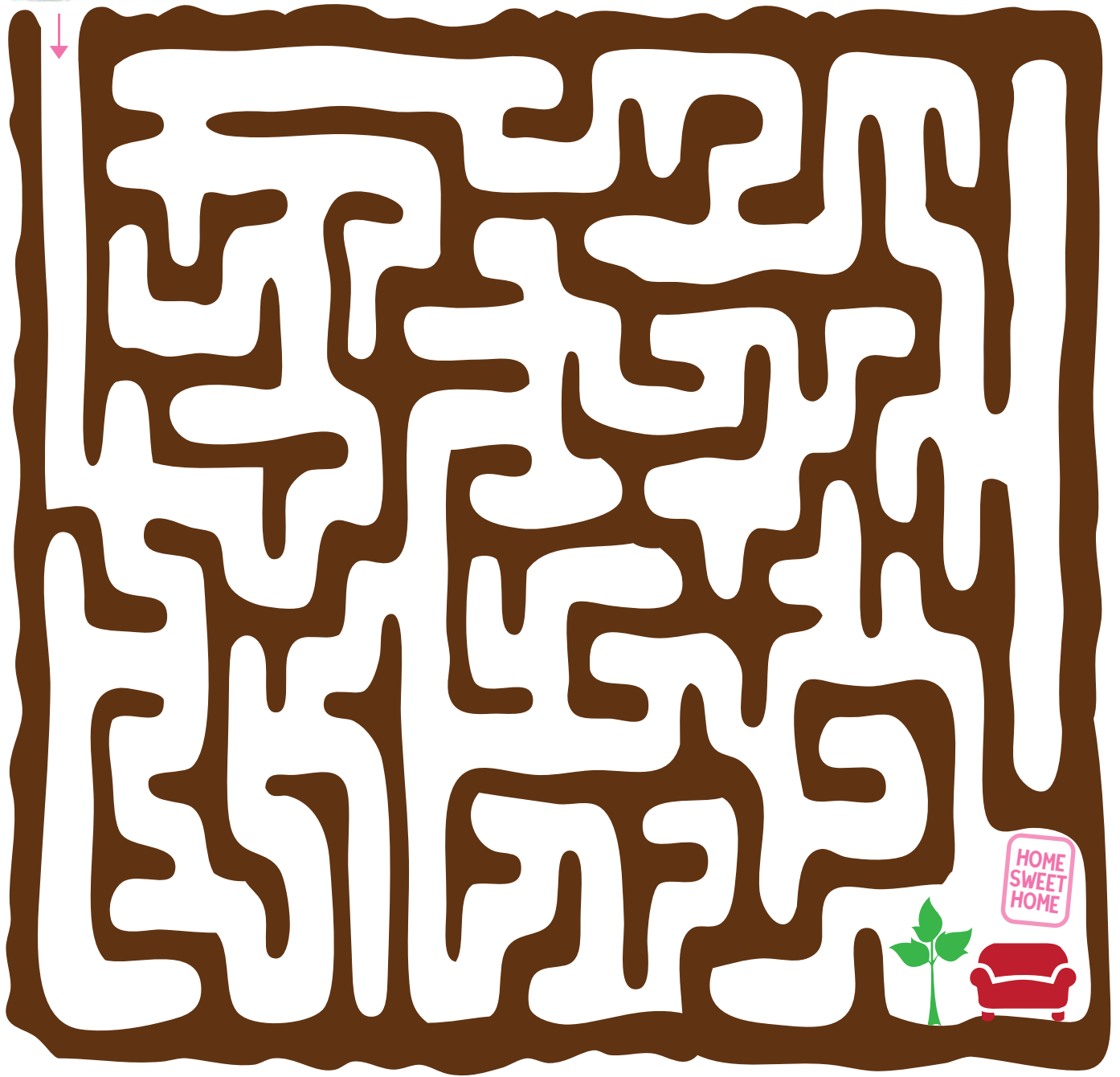
DELICIOUS OR DISGUSTING?

Write a persuasive paragraph explaining whether you think worms are interesting or disgusting. Use three reasons from the book to support your argument. Draw a picture of your most powerful and persuasive reason.



IT'S GOOD FOR NATURE!

Help the earthworm find his way home. The path he makes will enrich the soil by allowing air and water to circulate.



INTERESTING OR DISGUSTING?

Write down two facts about worms that you found interesting.

1.

2.

Write down two facts about worms that you found totally disgusting.

1.

2.

Write down one more question that you have about worms.

1.

