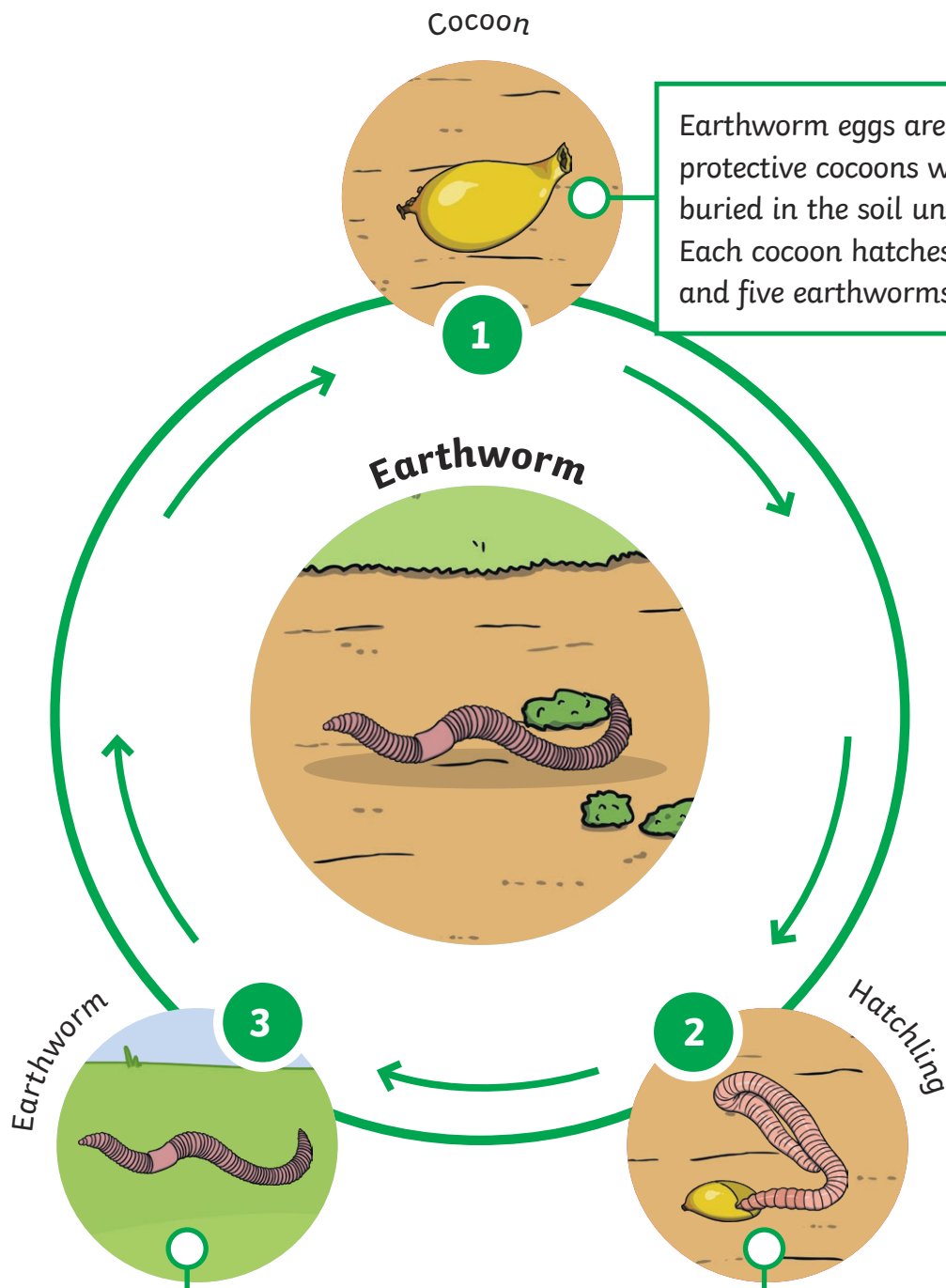


Life Cycle of an Earthworm



Earthworm eggs are held in protective cocoons which are buried in the soil until they hatch. Each cocoon hatches between one and five earthworms.

Earthworms become fully grown at around six weeks old. As they grow they form the segments on their bodies. They are able to lay eggs from about four weeks old.

Hatchlings come out of the cocoons then burrow into the soil to grow into adult earthworms. When they are born, hatchling earthworms are about an inch long, white and transparent.

