

Make Your Own Wormery



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Equipment



You will need:

Earthworms

Large, clean jar or clear container
(with a few holes made in the lid)

Plastic tray

Soil

Sand

Gravel or small stones

Water (in a spray bottle)

Old leaves, plants or flowers

Fruit and vegetable peelings

Black paper

Sticky tape

Somewhere cool and dark (such as a cupboard)



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Step 1

Begin by washing and drying your chosen jar or container. It should be clear so that you can see into it. Then, place the container into the plastic tray to make tidying up easier.



Step 2

Pour in some gravel or small stones – this will help to drain any excess water.



Step 3

Then, add alternate layers of sand and soil. Each layer should be about 2cm deep. There needs to be about 5cm of space at the top of the container. Spray each layer with a little water so that it is moist.



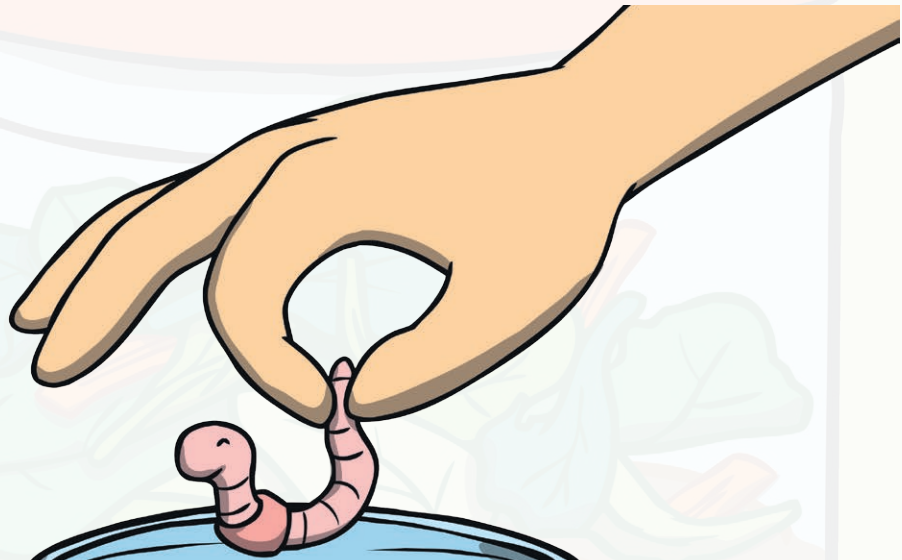
Step 4

Continue adding layers of sand and soil until you have nearly filled the container to the top. The top layer should be of soil. Remember to leave some space at the top for the worms and their food!



Step 5

Then, find some earthworms to put into your wormery! Carefully, place the worms onto the top layer of soil.



Step 6

Next, gently place some leaves, plants or flowers and some fruit and vegetable peelings on the top.



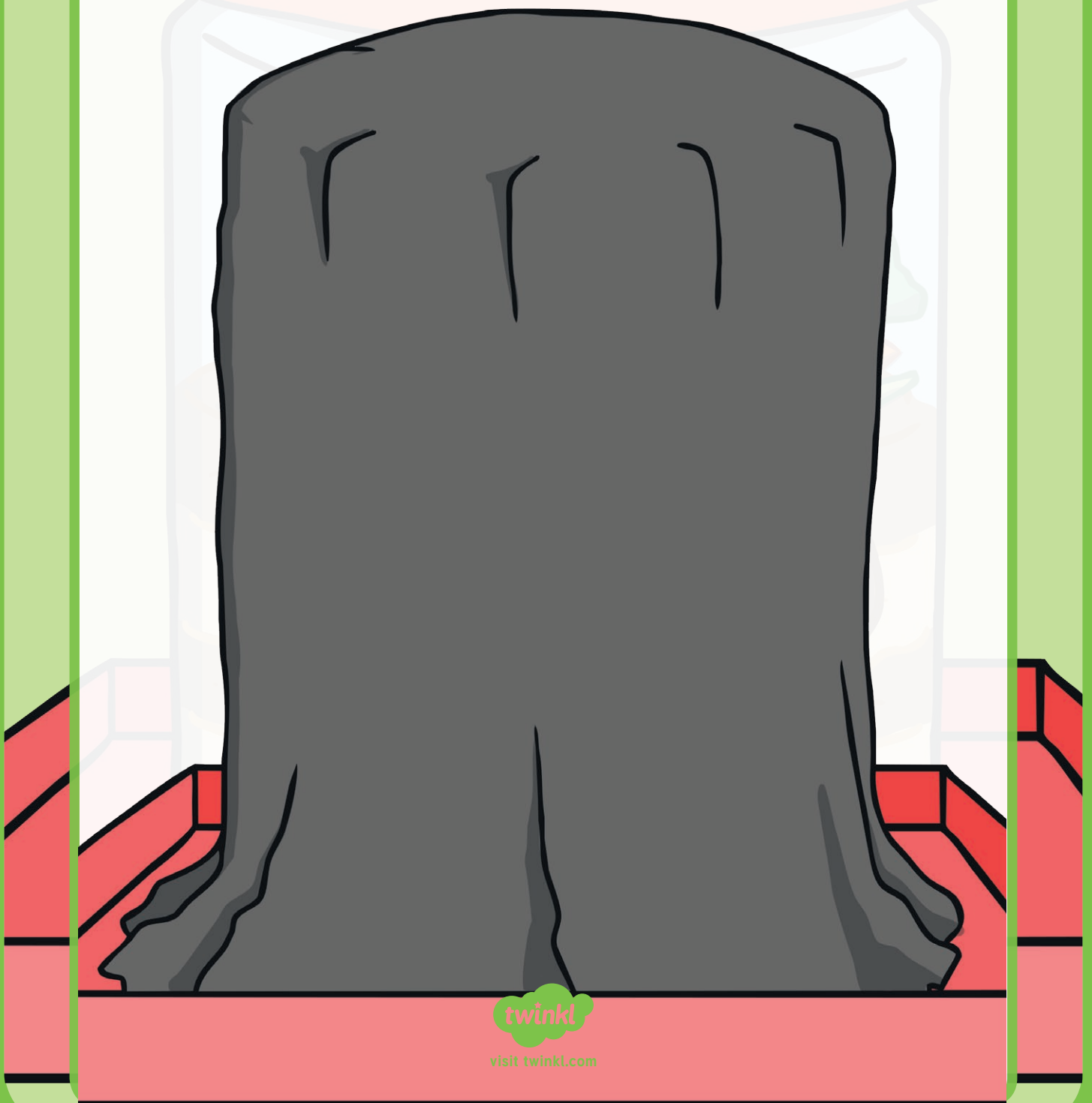
Step 7

Carefully place the lid onto the jar.
Make sure there are some holes in the lid.



Step 8

Stick the black paper around the container and place it somewhere cool and dark, such as inside a cupboard.



Step 9

Leave for a few days and then check on your wormery to see what the worms have been doing! Remember to hold the container carefully and place it on a table to keep it steady.



Step 10

Add some more leaves, and fruit and vegetable peelings to the top of the wormery if needed. Place the black paper back around the container and place back into the cupboard, once you have finished looking at the worms.



Wormery Question Prompts

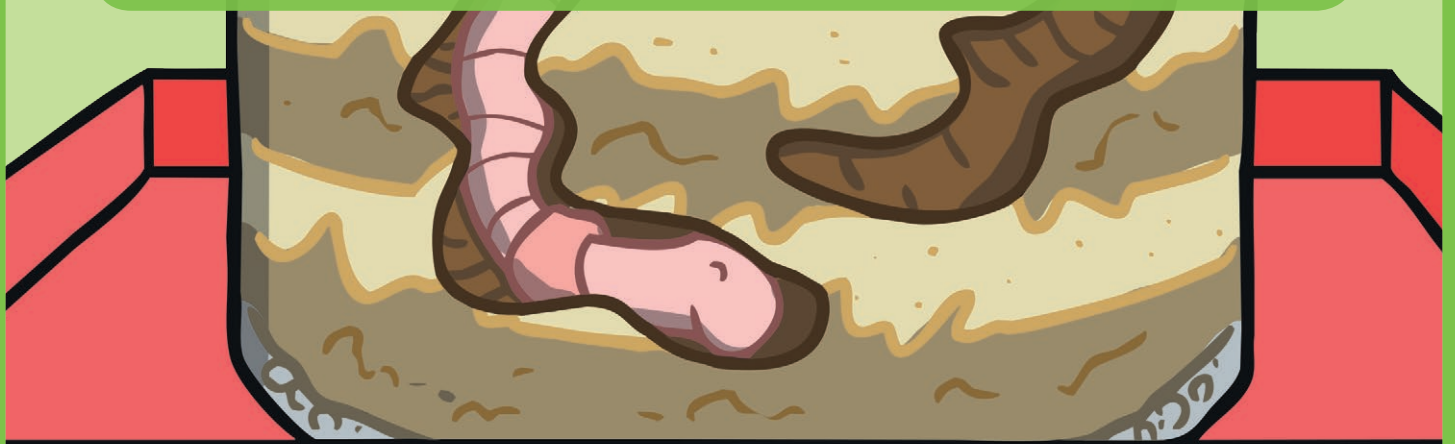


What can you see?

What has happened to the different layers?

What has happened to the leaves and food on top of the soil?

Can you see any patterns the worms have made in the soil?



Caring for Your Worms



To look after your worms, make sure that the contents of your wormery are kept moist – not too wet and not too dry. Also, earthworms don't like to be kept anywhere that is too hot or too cold – so somewhere cool is best. Make sure to add new food to the top of the wormery once it has been eaten. Plants, leaves and flowers or fruit and vegetable peelings are good.

