

Science Center Activities

1. Explain to the students that they will be keeping their own inquiry notebooks about their observations, experiences and feelings about worms. Explain that each entry needs a date with month and day. Their entries also can include pictures about the worms. It is a good idea to show a model entry in their inquiry notebooks.

Explain that although they are recording in their inquiry notebooks, this is like a field journal that scientists keep.

2. Scientists also use tools to help them with their jobs. Collect the following to have with the worm habitat: flashlight, magnifying glass, plastic spade, ruler, crayons and extra pencils. Model proper use of each of the tools for the students to use while working with the worms.
3. Ask students to complete some or all of the following activities as part of their inquiry project:
 - Drop each worm into the terrarium. Shine the flashlight and observe what the worms do. What happened? What was the cause? What was the effect?
 - Record daily observations on the worms in inquiry notebooks. Students can describe physical characteristics and movements that the worms make.
 - If there were any unanswered questions from the research about worms, hang those questions near the worm habitat. Encourage students to look for answers to these questions through their observations.
 - Take the plastic spade and carefully dig for a worm. Be careful, do not hurt the worm. Hold the worm in your hand. Do not squeeze the worm. Observe worm under the magnifying glass. What do you see?
 - Measure a real worm. Students will need a spade to dig for the worms, magnifying glass for close-up observations and a ruler for measurement. Students can work with a buddy. One person can hold the worm while the other person can measure the worm.
 - Observe worms making tunnels.