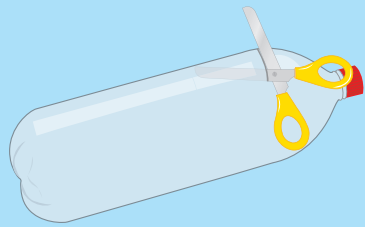


Make a wormery

See how worms' wriggling techniques mix up the soil and help plants grow.



1. Make a hole with a drawing pin at the top of a large plastic bottle. Then cut the top off, like this.

If you don't have sand, try to find different colours of soil.

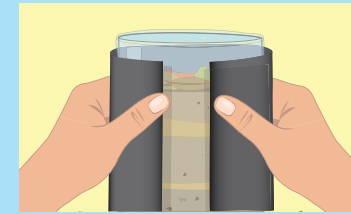


2. Fill the bottle with layers of soil and thinner layers of sand. Put dead leaves and four teaspoons of water on top.

You can often find worms under piles of dead leaves.



3. Dig around in some soil until you find two or three earthworms. Carefully put them into your bottle.



4. Cover the top of the bottle with food wrap and poke air holes in it with a pencil. Tape dark paper around the sides.



The paper has been taken off.

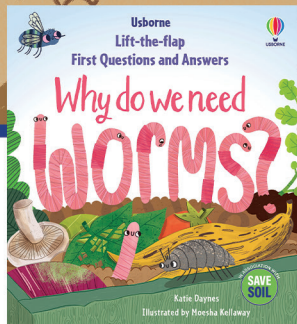
5. Add a couple of teaspoons of water each day, to keep the soil damp. After two weeks, take the paper off.



6. The worms will have mixed up the soil and made tunnels. Now return the worms to their original home.

What's going on?

Worms mix everything up as they make their burrows. The different-coloured layers of soil and sand make it easier for you to see how they do this. It's great for gardens, as the mixing adds air to the soil and the burrows make channels for water. The worms may have pulled the dead leaves down to eat. This mixes nutrients into the soil. All this helps plants get everything they need from the soil to grow healthily.



Usborne Activities

Discover more in **First Questions & Answers: Why do we need worms?** Find more activities at [usborne.com/activities-for-kids](https://www.usborne.com/activities-for-kids)

Copyright © Usborne Publishing Limited, 2024.
Illustrations by Moesha Kellaway and Stella Baggott.



USBORNE