



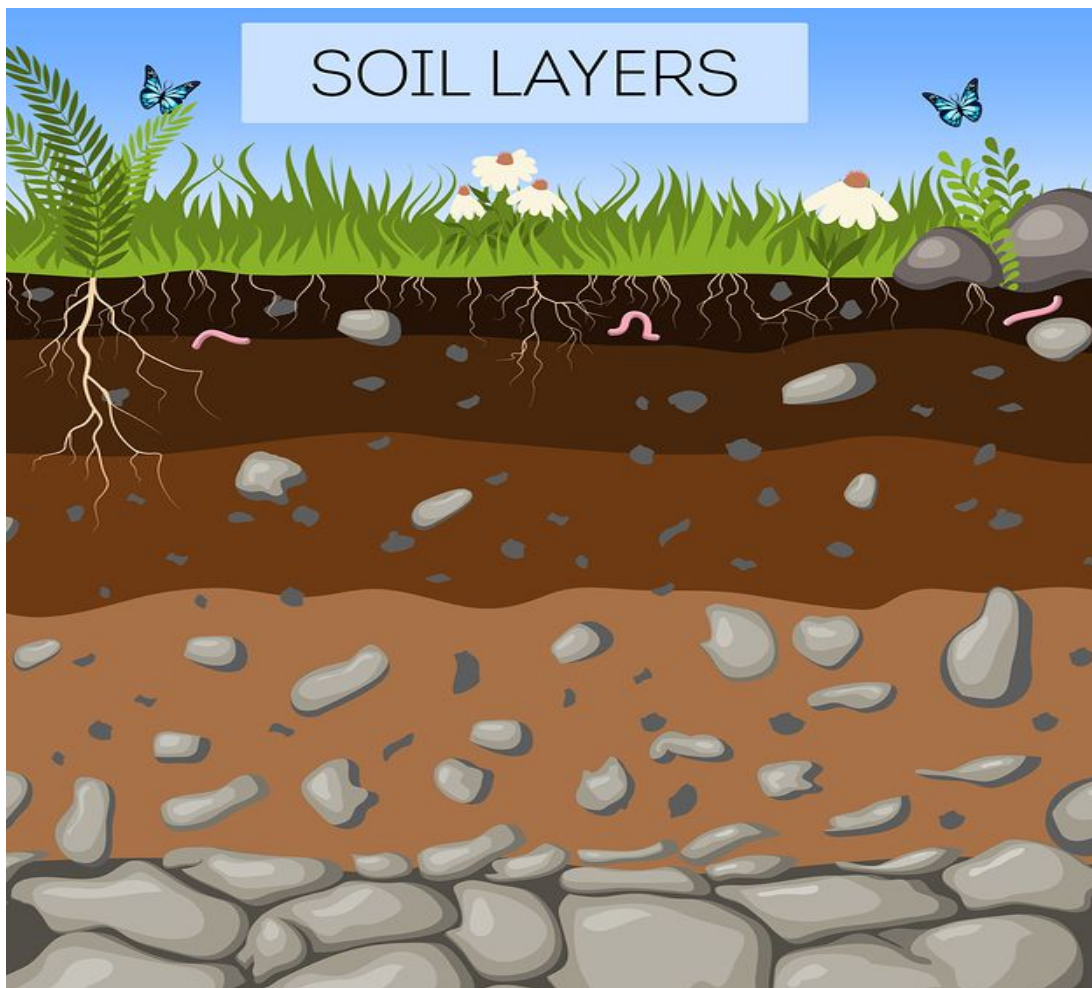
# A Book About Earthworms

By Amanda Raymont

A worm is a creature that has a long, soft body and no legs.



Earthworms live in soil under the ground, in compost bins and worm farms.



# Why Are Earthworms Important?

Earthworms have important work to do. Earthworms help to breakdown leaves, fruit and vegetable scraps, hair, old paper and other organic matter.



These items can be called

Compost

Earthworms help to turn compost into nutrients for the soil.



This helps the surrounding plants become healthier.

Earthworms also create tunnels in the soil. These tunnels help nutrients and water get to the roots of plants.



This helps plants to grow big and strong.



# What Do Earthworms Like To Eat?

- Leaves
- Vegetable scraps
- Fruit scraps
- Tea bags
- Crushed Egg shells
- Ground coffee
- Grass clippings



# What Shouldn't We Feed Earthworms?

- Strong flavours such as chillies, citrus, pineapples, garlic and onions



- Meat or fish
- Dairy products
- Sugary foods



- Avoid using any harmful chemicals in your garden as these can make worms very sick.



Avoid overwatering your garden as worms like damp but not excessively wet soil.

## Earthworm's Body

- Earthworms don't have arms or legs to help them move. They rely on muscular movements.

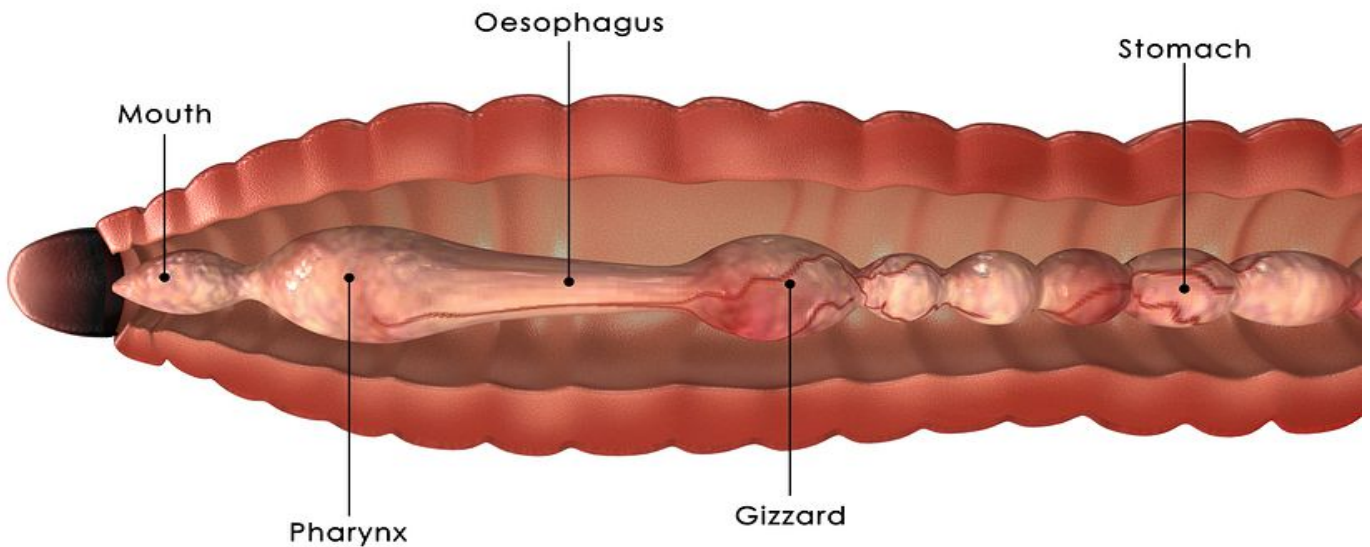


- Earthworms don't have eyes
- They breathe through their skin
- Worm's bodies are made up of mostly water. If they dry out - they will die
- Earthworms lay eggs





- Earthworms don't have teeth, yet they can eat up to half of their bodyweight in food everyday.



- Earthworms create castings (worm poo) and worm juice, both potent fertilisers for the soil.





- Earthworms range in size. Most are small, however in parts of Australia earthworms have been found up to 3 metres in length.



# Earthworm Predators

Lots of different creatures eat earthworms.

Some examples are:

- Frogs
- Birds
- Snakes
- Turtles
- Lizards
- Toads
- Pigs
- Centipedes
- Beetles
- Rats



