



Competition for Secondary School Students

Information about the competition



"Earthworms"

Tell us about the connection between worms, soil and climate

Welcome to our competition.

About the competition

We are an NFP organisation and this competition is funded by donors and sponsors.

Entries

Individual students or groups of students may enter

Entries must be submitted by
15 Sept 2023

Format

Your submission can be in any digital format. Be creative and tell us the story about how wonderful worms are for us and the environment. We'd love to see creative entries: videos, murals, posters, rap dance, stories, plays or a magazine- Surprise us.

Judges

Our judges are passionate about the importance of healthy soil.

Resources.

Some resources are provided- see overleaf.

What to cover

Worms are part of the ecosystem so provide context of their role and activities within the world under our feet. Your project should cover why worms are so important - what they do, the benefits to the soil and the environment.

In your project make sure you cover how worms are part of a system that enables carbon to be drawn down from the atmosphere and stored in the soil and how that process occurs

Have fun- We look forward to your entry

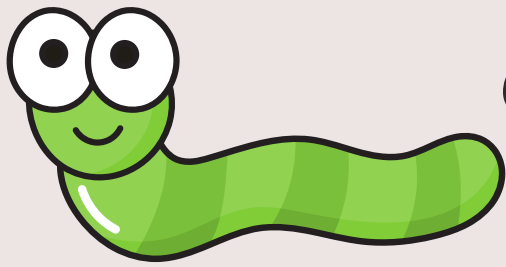
Lots of GREAT PRIZES - to be won including \$500 and \$100 vouchers

**To enter, scan the QR code
or visit:**

www.soilweekaustralia.com.au



**Competition closes:
15 Sept 2023**



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Earthworms – and the connection between worms, soil and climate.

Resources

These resources may help you to get started. Please make sure you acknowledge any resources- particularly Elaine Inghams Soil Food Web. I

Elaine Ingham Soil Food Web. The first 2 minutes are very good.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uAMniWJm2vo>

<https://www.dpi.nsw.gov.au/agriculture/soils/guides/soil-biology/earthworms>

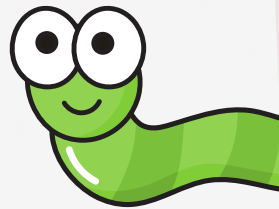
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s42832-020-0062-2>

<https://theconversation.com/earthworms-are-more-important-than-pandas-if-you-want-to-save-the-planet-74010>

<https://foodinsight.org/the-little-guys-of-regenerative-agriculture/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qkk_umfMVRw

<https://consciousplanet.org/>



Did you know?

Soils are the second largest carbon sink after the oceans. Earthworms are decomposers and they have a huge role to play in the process that converts carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and stores it in the soil.

There are many agricultural practices that release the carbon in the soil into the atmosphere. When soil is tilled or burned, carbon dioxide is released. Chemical fertilisers and pesticides also kill organisms in the soil that upsets the soil life balance in the soil releasing the carbon into the atmosphere.

Earthworms have a huge role in the soil ecosystem that can actually build carbon in the soil. As worms eat the organic matter, microorganisms and fungi in the soil, their excrement is full of nutrients, which is ideal for plants to grow. Worm excrement also adds physical structure to the soil that reduces erosion and worms' burrowing creates passages for air and water, which means the soil can hold more water and is more resilient to drought.