

Can You Measure an Earthworm?

To measure your earthworms, you will need:



Live Earthworms



Ruler



Clipboard

Before you begin: Please remember that the animal you are studying for this activity is a living being, like yourself. In general, don't let the animals get too hot or too cold, too wet or too dry. Handle them gently and for short periods of time. Give them a "rest," and then you can handle them some more.

To compare the size of two live earthworms, how would you measure them? Are they the same width everywhere on their bodies? Since they move around, how could you measure their lengths?

Note: This can be difficult because the worms, when moving, change both width and length constantly. There is no absolutely correct answer because worms do not have a rigid skeleton.



Once you decide on a plan, measure several of your worms and record your results in your notebook. You might want to make a chart and then fill it in with your numbers.

You can easily measure your height and waist. What makes this so difficult with earthworms?

Answer: Earthworms do not have a rigid skeleton