



OBSERVING THE FEEDING HABITS OF EARTHWORMS

Name: _____

Date: _____

Experiment #: _____



OBJECTIVE: To observe and compare the food preferences of earthworms.



MATERIALS

- 6–10 earthworms
- Large, shallow plastic container
- Moist soil or coconut coir
- Small pieces of different foods, such as:
 - Fruit (e.g., apple)
 - Vegetable (e.g., carrot)
 - Leaf litter (e.g., dried leaves)
 - Coffee grounds
 - Plain oatmeal
- Plastic wrap or lid with holes
- Ruler
- Paper and pencil



PROCEDURE

1. Place a 2–3 cm layer of moist soil or coconut coir in the bottom of the container.
2. Place small pieces of each food type on the soil, spaced apart around the container.
3. Gently place the earthworms in the center of the container.
4. Cover the container with plastic wrap or a lid with holes for air.
5. Place the container in a dark or dimly lit place (earthworms prefer darkness).
6. After 24 hours, observe where the earthworms are and which foods they are on or near.
7. Record your observations in the table.
8. You may repeat the experiment more than once to see if the results are consistent.



HYPOTHESIS

What do you think the earthworms will prefer to eat?



OBSERVATIONS (After 24 hours)

Food Type	Where were the earthworms? (On it / Near it / Not near it)
Fruit (apple)	
Vegetable (carrot)	
Leaf litter	
Coffee grounds	
Plain oatmeal	
Other observations (earthworm behavior, amount of food eaten, etc.)	



ANALYSIS QUESTIONS

1. Which food did the earthworms seem to prefer the most?

2. Which food did they seem to avoid?

3. What might this tell you about what earthworms like to eat in the wild?



CONCLUSION

What did you learn from this experiment?



DID YOU KNOW? Earthworms help break down organic matter in the soil and are an important part of the ecosystem!