

# Worms in the Garden

## Recycling Nutrients Clusters (Lessons 12-15)

As Jordan and Marta were helping their mother pull weeds in the garden, they noticed earthworms crawling underneath the top layer of soil. Jordan suggested they try to get rid of all the worms because they were “yucky” and would ruin the garden. Marta insisted they were not “yucky” at all and should stay because they were good for the garden. Who is correct and why?

### TEACHER NOTE:

Use this assessment after teaching Lesson 12.

### EVALUATION GUIDELINES:

When evaluating student answers, consider whether they include the following elements in their written explanations:

- Marta is correct.
- The worms are good for the garden because they leave behind castings.
- Castings are full of nutrients the plants in the garden use to help them grow.

# Forest Ecosystem

## Unit Assessment (Lessons 1-15)

### TEACHER NOTE:

Use this assessment after teaching Lesson 15.



Look at the picture of the fallen tree above and answer the questions that follow.

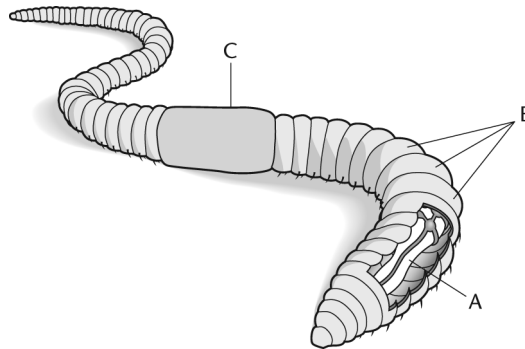
1. List some of nature's recyclers shown in the picture.

- Fungi (mushrooms)
- Invertebrates (spiders, earthworms, millipedes)

2. Why is the fallen tree good for the nature's recyclers in the picture?

- The fallen tree provides nutrients for a variety of nature's recyclers.
- Students might also mention that the fallen tree could provide shelter for nature's recyclers.

Use the picture below to help you answer question 4.



4. (Lesson 4) Look carefully at the diagram of the earthworm. Match the letters in the diagram with the correct parts of the earthworm listed below.

- |           |         |
|-----------|---------|
| intestine | _____ A |
| saddle    | _____ C |
| segments  | _____ B |

5. (Lesson 5) Which sentence **best** describes how castings are formed?

- a. Castings are formed when perlite is broken down by worms.
- b. *Castings are formed when worms excrete the remains of digested food.*
- c. Castings are formed when dead worms are broken down by other organisms.
- d. None of the above.