

## VERMICOMPOSTING WORKSHOPS: QUESTIONS TO ASK KIDS

**NOTE: These questions are not in any particular order.**

1. What kinds of things go in your kitchen trash can at home? [Food scraps, plastic bags, plastic and paper food packaging, paper towel, tin foil...]
2. When the trash can is emptied, where does the bag go? [Landfill or compost pile]
3. What happens to kitchen scraps at the landfill? [The food waste decomposes without oxygen (anaerobically) and creates a gas called methane. This gas contributes to global warming. By keeping it out of the landfill you can help your environment.]
4. What can you do with your kitchen scraps if you don't send them to a landfill? [Compost]
5. How many of you compost at home? [Raise hands]
6. When something is composted, what does it become? [Soil like, soil amendment]
7. If something you would throw away can be recycled or reused, is it still "trash"? [Let's call it a "resource" or "organics" or "residuals". Think of other names, get suggestions.]
8. What creatures live in a compost bin or pile? [Worms, pill bugs, pseudo scorpions, etc.]
9. Did you know you can do this with worms indoors all year long? [It's called composting with worms or vermicomposting.]
10. What do worms need to live? [Air, moisture, bedding, food scraps.]
11. What do worms look like alive? Dead? How do they die? [They dry up and become hard. Worms need moisture so they can breathe.]

12. What does a cocoon look like? A juvenile. An adult?
13. Can the worms live outside? [Yes, in a big pile or in the ground, but they could freeze in the winter if they can't burrow into the ground.]
14. What do you do with the worm poop (castings) when you empty the worm bin? [Put them in your garden or your plants.]
15. What do you do with the extra worms? [Start another worm bin or give them to friends to start their own worm bin.]

**POSSIBLE TERMS TO GO OVER IN THE WORKSHOP.**

- Compost/ing
- Egg capsules or cocoons
- Garbage
- Global warming
- Kitchen scraps
- Landfill
- Methane gas
- Organics
- Residuals
- Resource Trash
- Soil Amendment
- Vermicast
- Vermicompost
- Worm castings

## **Questions to ask kids generated at 10/3 workshop**

What's a worm's job?

What are worms good for?

What do all animals need? [place to live, food, water/moisture, temperature, poop]

How might we give this to worms that live indoors?

I have a thousand pets under my desk? Why do you think I might do that?  
What kind of critters might they be?

Would you like to have a 1,000 more classmates?

Could you share your classroom with 1,000 pets?

What will a worm prefer, a wet papertowel or a dry one? Why?

What will a worm prefer, light or dark? Why [worm has learned that light means danger: getting dried out/dying]

What do you think about when you think about worms?

Do you recycle?

What does it mean to recycle?

What is composting? Why is it important/helpful?

Do you know anyone who has a worm bin? Why do they have it?

What do you think happens in a worm bin?

Do you like worms?

Where do you find worms in nature/outside?

What kinds of things will breakdown over time, which ones won't. Take examples from the room.

What would you think about keeping worms in your house?

Gross your friends out! Worms = easy pets that can make money!

What if your school cafeteria could have a special bin just for food scraps. How much money could the school save if you didn't send food scraps to the landfill? (\$96/Ton about 1 – 3 cuyds depending on how dense)

Why do you think we are learning about this in school?

What can you feed worms? Generate + - list with kids?

How do worms digest their food?

How do you know if your worms are sick? [ see troubleshooting list]

Why is it good to cover the bin?

What other bugs are good to have in the worm bin? Not good?