Take part in a Worm Hunt and discover more about the incredible creatures beneath your feet.

**WORMS ARE THE HEROES OF THE SOIL**
- Healthy soils have lots of worms!
- These hungry creatures can eat their own body weight in food in one day! Worm poo enriches the soil with vital nutrients keeping it healthy.
- Worms are really important in the food chain and make a tasty meal for birds, hedgehogs and frogs!

**LET’S FIND SOME WORMS!**

1. **HABITAT HUNT**
   - Turn over stones and dead wood, look under leaf litter and dig in bare earth.

2. **STAMPING UP AND DOWN**
   - Worms can be attracted to the surface by vibrations.

3. **SOAKING**
   - Wet an area of grass, cover it with black plastic (a bin liner will do) and wait for 30 minutes. The water will flood the worms’ burrows causing them to come to the surface.

4. **TWANGING**
   - Put a garden fork into an area of grass and rock it backwards and forwards for 15 minutes.

**Be gentle!** Worms breathe through their delicate skin, so handle them carefully so you don’t hurt them. Always remember to put them back in their home once you’ve said hello.

Print out this sheet to take with you on your Worm Hunt. Then go to www.soilassociation.org/worm-hunt to share your findings with us! Don’t forget to share your best Worm Hunt photos on social media using #WormHunt @SoilAssociation
There are 26 different species of worm in the UK and three main types of worm you can look out for:

1. **Common red worm** (Epigeic species) – they live above ground in leaf litter, under dead wood and in the surface soil. They’re a red-brown colour and are between 1-7cm long.

2. **Blue-grey worm** (Endogeic species) - they live underground and move horizontally through the topsoil. You might also find them beneath your compost bin. They’re normally a pale colour and are between 2-12cm long.

3. **European nightcrawler** (Anecic species) – they live underground and move vertically through burrows deep in the soil (look out for little piles of worm poo on the surface soil to find their burrow entrances!). You’re likely to find them deeper in the soil or in your compost bin. They’re darkly coloured and are between 15-25cm long.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
<th>NO. OF WORMS</th>
<th>WORM TYPE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 2 April</td>
<td>Flowerbed in my garden</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Common red worm X 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Blue-grey worm X 2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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