

EDUCATOR NOTES:

[Creating a worm farm](#)

Learning and Engagement Approach

This activity is designed to engage young learners aged from 7 – 13 years.

The activity is intended to:

- create a worm farm
- increase awareness of soil conservation
- engage children in a hands-on learning activity
- upcycle waste (a polystyrene box) by transforming it into a worm farm.

Safety Considerations

- Check the weather before conducting any outdoors activity. If there is going to be extreme temperatures, storms or high wind, postpone the activity.
- Ensure that everyone is wearing closed shoes, hats, and sunscreen and has a water bottle handy.
- Keep any allergy plan information at hand and any associated allergy medication.
- Implement manual handling procedures when lifting the materials, especially if they are wet.
- Ensure that everyone washes their hands after finishing this activity.
- Be careful to only collect materials that will be used immediately in the worm farm, to avoid rotting and mouldy scraps accumulating unnecessarily.

Materials and References

Materials

Polystyrene boxes can be obtained from your local fruit shop or grocer. Better still, you may be able to put a call-out to your community to donate a polystyrene box that would have otherwise ended up in landfill.

The other materials you will need for you build can be recycled materials that you already have, or sourced from your local hardware or garden store.

Obtaining worms

You will need to use compost worms in your worm farm. There are many different types of worm and the worms you find in your garden are most likely not suited to living in a worm farm. Worm farms use worms that are better able to cope with the conditions in this compost-rich environment. You can source your worms from an existing worm farm (you may be able to approach your local community garden for some), or they can be bought either online or at your local hardware or garden store.

Site Suggestions

Your worm farm will be heavy once it has been made, so make sure you construct it in its final location.

It is important that you situate your worm farm in a cool, shaded location. Worms exposed to heat and direct sunlight will perish.

Educator Tips

Monitor your worm farm to check that the worms are comfortable. Be wary of over-feeding your worms; this is a common mistake.

Aligning this Activity

- [Creating compost](#)
- [Investigating the soil food web](#)
- [Installing a no dig garden bed](#)

Extension Activities

Extension 1

Investigate how worms grow, change and have offspring similar to themselves.

Extension 2

Now you know how to make a worm farm, make one for a neighbour, a community house, or a sports club!

Community Engagement

Use [The National Landcare Directory](#) to find a community environmental 'care' group near you. Look to the [Junior Landcare Community Page](#) for organisations to contact to help support your learning activity.

Use this [Australian City Farms and Community Gardens Network map](#) to find a City Farm or Community Garden near you to get some ideas for your worm farm.

Your local council may have special waste educators that can help share tips on waste management and worm farming.

Curriculum and Framework Links

SCIENCE

Year 2: [ACSSU031](#), [ACSHE035](#)

Year 3: [ACSHE051](#), [ACSIS054](#)

Year 4: [ACSHE062](#), [ACSSU073](#), [ACSSU074](#)

Year 5: [ACSSU043](#), [ACSHE083](#)

Year 6: [ACSSU094](#), [ACSHE100](#)

Year 7: [ACSSU112](#), [ACSHE120](#)

Year 8: [ACSHE135](#)

DESIGN & TECHNOLOGIES

Year 2: [ACTDEK001](#), [ACTDEK004](#), [ACTDEP007](#)

Year 3 & 4: [ACTDEK013](#), [ACTDEP016](#), [ACTDEP018](#)

Year 5 & 6: [ACTDEK023](#), [ACTDEP026](#)

Year 7 & 8: [ACTDEP037](#), [ACTDEP039](#)

Year 9 & 10: [ACTDEK046](#)

CRITICAL AND CREATIVE THINKING

[Generating ideas, possibilities and actions](#)

ETHICAL UNDERSTANDING

[Exploring values, rights and responsibilities](#)

PERSONAL AND SOCIAL CAPABILITY

[Social awareness](#)

CROSS CURRICULUM PRIORITY

[Sustainability](#)

MY TIME, OUR PLACE: FRAMEWORK FOR SCHOOL AGE CARE

[Outcome 2 and 4](#)