

EARTHWORM DISSECTION

Can you identify the external and internal anatomy of an earthworm?

Name: _____ Date: _____



An earthworm has complicated systems that facilitate its functions, including a digestive system that includes multiple specialized organs that work together. But this is not the only complex system that can be found in these organisms. In fact, there are multiple unique and intricate structures that not only allow the earthworm to survive, but to thrive.

Instructions

- Watch the earthworm dissection lab (in your lessons or [click here](#)) then complete the corresponding questions found here.

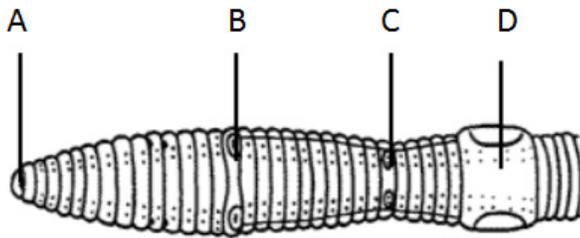
Project Goals:

- To become more familiar with earthworm anatomy

Earthworm Lab Analysis:

Please answer in point form.

1. Identify structures A through D. What is the function of the clitellum? (3marks)



2. The anterior end of the worm is closest to the _____ . (1mark)
3. Incisions are made on the _____ side of the earthworm. Which is _____ than the _____ side. (3marks)
4. Describe the procedure to prepare your specimen for dissection. (2 marks)

5. Using the _____, the dissection begins with a _____ just behind the _____ (3 marks)
6. Describe the dissection procedure required to see the earthworms’ internal organs. (3marks – ½ mark for each point)

7. Trace the path of food through the digestive system of the earthworm. The earthworms wastes are called _____. (4marks ½ mark for each point)

8. What procedure is required to see the ventral nerve chord? (3marks)

9. Describe the location of the ventral nerve chord. (1 mark)

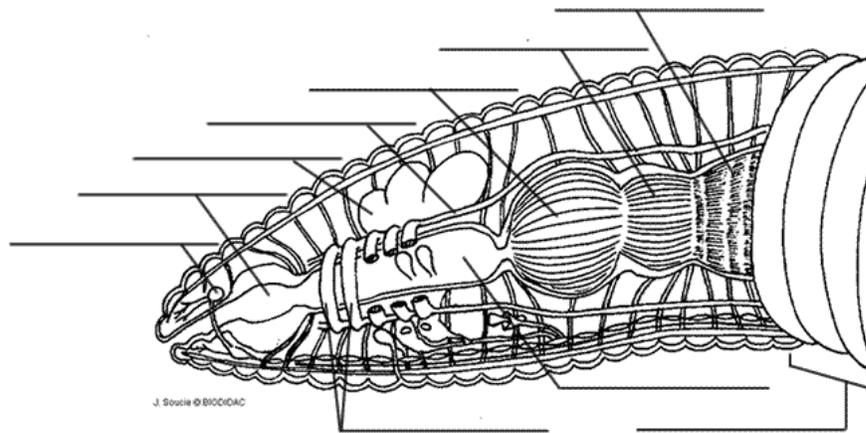
10. Organisms that contain both male and female reproductive organs such as the earthworm is known as _____. (1mark)

11. The function of the seminal vesicles is to _____. (1mark)

12. Respiration in the earthworm occurs _____. (1mark)

13. Describe the circulatory system of the earthworm. Trace the bath of blood through this system. (4 marks ½ mark for each point)

14. Label these structures on the image below: pharynx, esophagus, crop, gizzard, aortic arches, brain, dorsal blood vessel, clitellum, intestine, seminal vesicles. (5 marks)



15. In the diagram above, color the digestive structures green, the circulatory structures red, the reproductive structures blue, and the nervous system structures yellow. (4 marks)

16. What characteristics distinguish an annelid from other worms? (2 marks)

17. Does the earthworm have a closed or open circulatory system? Explain your choice. (2 marks)