

Earthworm Dissection Guideline

1. Observe the external features first
2. Count the number of segments between the mouth and the clitellum.
3. Measure the length of your worm from mouth to anus in cm.
4. Place a pin through the mouth
5. Place a second pin behind the clitellum
6. Make a like cut behind the clitellum. (**Not To Hard**)
7. Take the scissors and lift and cut the top layer of skin (Cut about 2cm)
8. Pin open the layers of skin
9. Continue cutting and keep lifting first all the way to the mouth
10. Pin apart the skin so you can see clearly inside of the earthworm
11. Draw what you see inside and label
 - a. **Aortic Arches**
 - b. **Esophagus**
 - c. **Crop**
 - d. **Gizzard**
 - e. **Seminal Vesicles**
 - f. **Intestine or Gut**
12. **If there is time left cut a slice of the worm below the clitellum**
13. **Place it on a slide and draw a cross section of what you see**
14. **Label the following parts**
 - a. **Epidermis**
 - b. **Muscles**
 - c. **Blood vessel**
 - d. **Gut**
 - e. **Coelom**

Answer the following questions:

1. **Do the segments refer to how old the earthworm is?**
2. **What is one thing that you thought was interesting about the external structure of the earthworm?**
3. **What is the job of the crop?**
4. **What is the job of the gizzard?**
5. **What is one thing that you thought was interesting about the internal structure of the earthworm?**