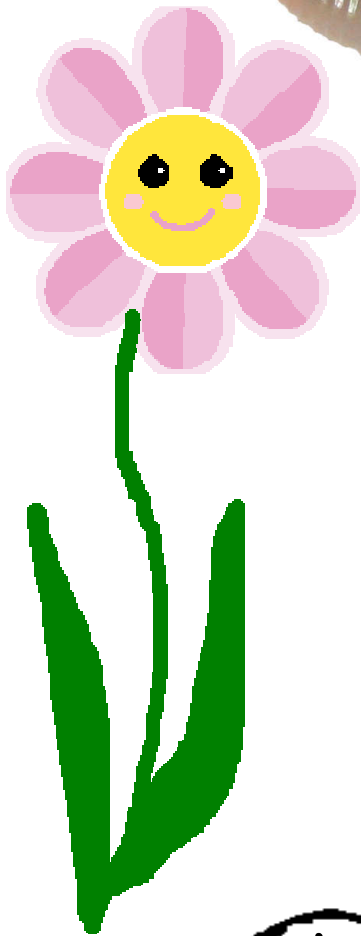
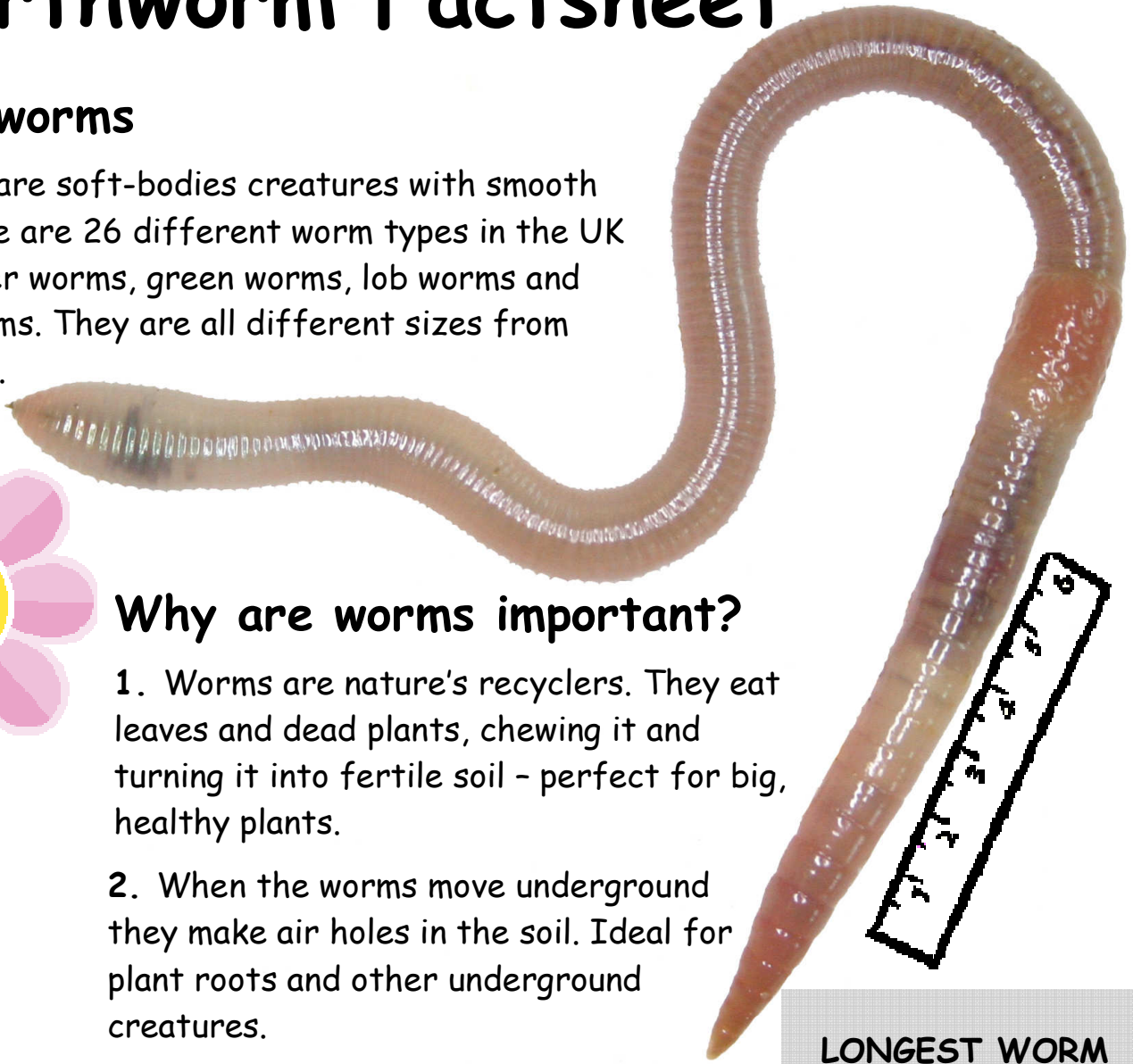


Earthworm Factsheet

Wriggly worms

Earthworms are soft-bodied creatures with smooth bodies. There are 26 different worm types in the UK including tiger worms, green worms, lob worms and redhead worms. They are all different sizes from 2cm to 35cm.



Why are worms important?

1. Worms are nature's recyclers. They eat leaves and dead plants, chewing it and turning it into fertile soil - perfect for big, healthy plants.
2. When the worms move underground they make air holes in the soil. Ideal for plant roots and other underground creatures.
3. Worms are at the bottom of many food chains. This means there are lots of other animals that eat worms such as hedgehogs, birds and badgers.

LONGEST WORM

Australian Giant Gippsland earthworm can grow to 3m (taller than your teacher!)

Worm song

Nobody likes me,
everybody hates me
Think I'll go and eat
worms
Long ones, short ones,
fat ones, thin ones
See how they wriggle
and squirm





Earthworm Factsheet

Worms in trouble

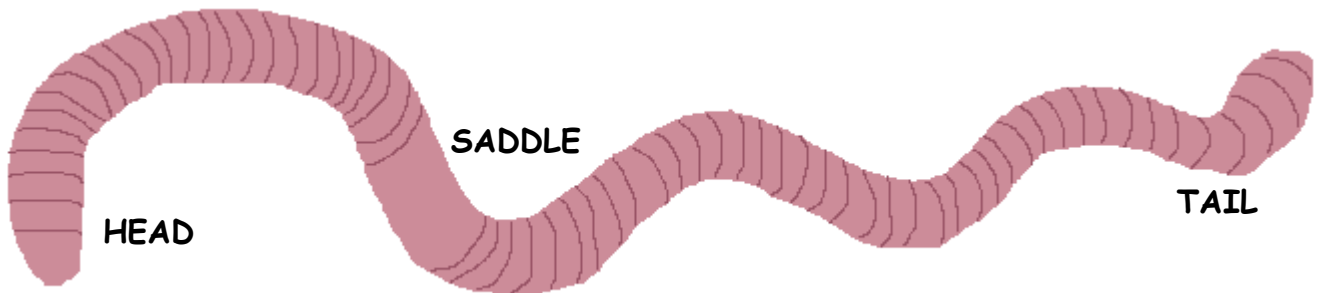
Too much heavy work on the ground surface can make the soil very hard - making it difficult for worms to push through.



Worms live underground and are sensitive to chemicals (pesticides and fertilisers that are put on the soil).

Worm Biology

Worms have no eyes, arms, legs or lungs like humans do. Worms move through the soil by making a slimy mucus that helps them slide through the soil. They have special bristles on their skin which they stick into their burrow to help them move or stay still.



They don't breathe like a human either! They get air through their skin. They like the ground to be wet to help them breathe.

YOUNG EARTHWORMS

Earthworms lay eggs in a special cocoon underground. It takes about three weeks for the tiny earthworms to hatch.

Gardening for worms



You can help by making your garden a worm friendly home. Make piles of deadwood; don't use any chemicals and leave lots of garden mess and dead leaves for worms to eat.

