**Module 1: A Worm’s Life**

**Driving Question(s)**

Which fruits/vegetables will worms decompose the fastest?

Which soil will grow the best vegetables?

 **Overview**

As a class start and care for a worm bin. The worm bin comes as a kit and includes everything you will need to get started. Students will learn all about worms- what they look like, how they survive, what they eat- while maintaining a worm bin. Students will take turns being responsible feeding the worms. Students can take an empty bin to the cafeteria to collect food after lunch that has not been bitten into.

 **Major Products & Performances**

-Graph of food and days it took to decompose

-Garden journals

-Poster of worm food

-Story about a worm

-Soil cycle

-Worm songs

-Worm bin (setting up and caretaking)

**Teacher Background**

Vermicomposting is the process of using red worms to transform food waste into a nutrient rich soil called vermicompost. In order to start a worm bin you will need red worms and soil in a bucket or the worm bin container. Give the worms fruit of vegetable scraps and then cover the top with shredded newspaper. Vermicomposting is any easy and organic way for gardeners to make fertilizer for their crops.

A worm bin is a simple way to introduce gardening in the classroom. Worms can eat vegetables and fruit scraps, egg shells, coffee grounds, tea bags, and shredded newspaper. Do not over feed your worms or you will get fruit flies. The less fruit you feed the worms the less likely you will get fruit flies. Whole pieces of fruits and vegetables are not easy for the worms to use, so break them into pieces when possible. This can also serve as a good experiment for students. An easy way to feed your worms is to save food from the cafeteria as long as it wasn’t bitten into. The cooks can even give you old fruits or vegetables that they can no longer serve that will be perfect for your worms!

For more information visit this website: <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/Education/Curriculum/Worms/default.htm>