

The Vermicomposting curriculum aligns with fifth-grade Essential Standard-Ecosystems. Students explore the life of an earthworm through a micro-community that contains producers, consumers and decomposers (as all communities do).

Vermicomposting stimulates both lower and upper level critical thinking skill development as students acquire and evaluate information.

Few supplies are needed, thereby making this a popular curriculum. Contact your local Cooperative Extension and ask for the 4-H agent to learn more about the Vermicomposting curriculum.

ESSENTIAL STANDARDS

Ecosystems (5th Grade)

Clarifying Objectives:

Understand the interdependence of plants and animals within their ecosystems.

5.L.2.1 Compare the characteristics of several common ecosystems, including estuaries and salt marshes; oceans; lakes and ponds; forests; and grasslands.

✓ **Vermicomposting** – Setting Up a Worm Bin

✓ **Vermicomposting** – To Harvest Castings

5.L.2.2 Classify the organisms within an ecosystem according to the function they serve: producers, consumers, or decomposers (biotic factors).

✓ **Vermicomposting** – Earthworm Anatomy

✓ **Vermicomposting** – Other Critters in a Worm's Neighborhood

✓ **Vermicomposting** – To Harvest Castings

5.L.2.3 Infer the effects that may result from the interconnected relationship of plants and animals to their ecosystem.

✓ **Vermicomposting** – Other Critters in a Worm's Neighborhood

✓ **Vermicomposting** – Recycle, Reuse, Re-Imagine!

