

Welcome to Pollywog At Home, Session 6!
Wonderful Worms by Loretta Krupinski

Parts to **(read aloud)** to kids are labeled before the text.
Parts that are **((asides to caregivers))** are indicated with double parenthesis.

(read aloud)

Good Morning Pollywoggers! Well, it is morning while I am making this class for us - - it might be another time of day when you are seeing it together. During the stay-at-home days, when we are staying away from groups of people so that we can stop the spread of a bad illness, it can be trickier to stick to the same bedtimes, breakfast times and other parts of our day. I like the idea of Pollywog in the morning, because that's how I have always done it!

Welcome Song –

Time to start off with The Welcome Song. Please sing it together to start our class. It gives us helpful things to remember about our learning and fun time together:

~ sung to the tune of Rock-A-Bye Baby ~

Welcome to Art Class!
Ready for some fun?
First we sit still,
and quietly listen.
After our screen time,
we'll make something new -
but first we sing this
so we know what to do!

Opening (read aloud)

Speaking of times of day - have you ever heard the saying "The early bird catches the worm"? It means that the bird that wakes up and flutters from their nest earliest will find the most worms. Worms like to be out when it is moist - and at night they are safer because things that might eat them can't see them as well. Sometimes they will be too slow in going back under the ground in the morning, and that will help the early birds find their breakfast! Those early birds have found that a schedule is very useful.

Today we are not going to focus on the birds, though. We are looking at worms!

As humans, we usually think about the world above the soil. Have you ever imagined what it is like under the surface of the ground? There is a whole other world down there! There are stones, roots of trees and plants, bugs, and even mammals. Humans are pretty big mammals. Most of the mammals that live underground are smaller.

One of the most important things under the soil are the worms. They are a sign of healthy conditions. They make the soil healthier for everything else that relies on it - like plants, animals, and you and me (because we eat these things!). ((Take time to discuss together – maybe talk about what an upside down forest of tree roots would look like.))

Storytime (read aloud)

Let's learn more about worms with this non-fiction (meaning: true) book about worms. Here is today's story link – we will be seeing and listening to the book **Wonderful Worms** by Linda Glaser and Loretta Krupinski.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ccfh7k5TYGM>

((copy and paste into browser if clicking does not work))

After Story (read aloud)

After a story like that, we will be on the lookout for worms more often! As a kid, I used to team up with friends at my bus stop in the morning and save all the worms we could (if they were on the neighborhood road). We picked them up carefully and put them in the grass. Then we wiped off our hands in the dewy grass ... then probably on our pants. Our parents might have been annoyed with that part.

Our Project (read aloud)

This week we're going to weave with worms. Do you know what weaving is? It is when you use one item and thread it up and down through another item. That sounds confusing, but you will understand when we try it together. Usually, people weave threads and yarns and strings. We will be weaving with paper - special paper that we make into soil and worms.

Materials –

- Sheet of brown construction paper (if you do not have construction paper, you can take a little time to color a white sheet of paper with crayons markers or paint).
- Sheet of pink construction paper (again, you can adapt this project to using only white paper if necessary).
- Scissors (safety scissors for kids; any type of scissors for adult helpers).
- Crayons, markers, or chalk (I am using crayons for the example piece).

((We will be using materials during Pollywog At Home that families are likely to already have on hand. If I list an item you do not have, see if you can think of a substitute - - if you're really stuck for a solution, feel free to email me for advice! r.schiding.studio@comcast.net))

How To –

As with most Pollywog projects, if kids and grown-ups work side to side on the same project, young learners will have their questions answered by demonstration.

1) Decorate the sheet of brown construction paper with things that you might see under soil. The picture book we just watched had a lot of good examples. It is useful to use dirt colors like black, grey, browns and some lighter colors, too, because they will show up nicely on darker brown paper. You do not need to draw any worms on it - the worms come later - - but if you want to, you can.

Some roots extending down from the surface would be nice. If you have stones under the ground, make the bottom part of the stones darker to make them look more realistic. You can make it darker as the soil goes deeper because it is getting further away from the light.

Here is how I'm decorating my brown soil sheet of paper:



2) Lightly fold the brown soil sheet in half, and cut as shown. 6 to 8 cuts works well, about 1.5 inches apart. This does not have to be done precisely - but cut from the folded edge, and not the whole way out to the outer edges of the paper.

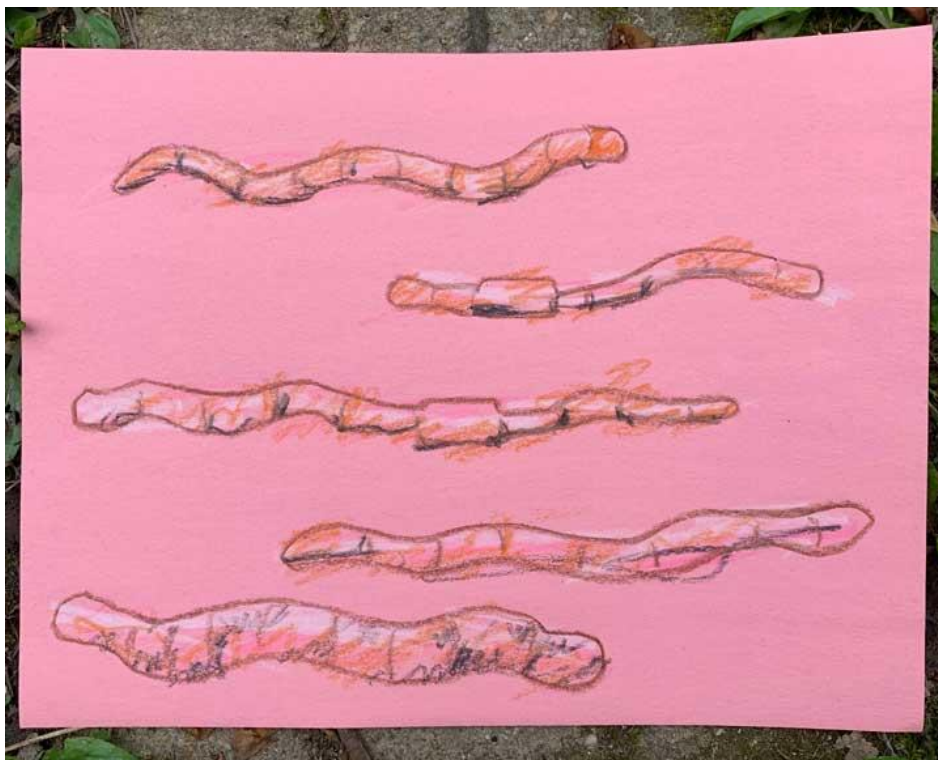


Here are all my cuts (a little tricky to picture):



3) Now we can set the brown sheet aside for a bit, and we will make our worms. This step may call for some adult help to draw and cut the worms, but it is also good drawing and cutting practice for kids who are becoming more capable with those actions. See what works best for you!

Draw 4 to 7 or so worms. Some can be shorter than others. There can be thin ones and thick ones. Drawing them with a brown or grey crayon works well. Then they can be colored with wormy colors - like pink, white, and brown. When coloring the worms, there is no need to stay in the lines because they will be cut out and that "cleans up" the coloring.



4) Cut out the worms. Again, a job for adults in many Pollywog families, but a good chance to practice and learn some cutting for younger artists.

5) After the worms are all cut, we get to weave them! Show your young Pollywogger how the paper worms can be treaded into the slits of the brown/dirt sheet. They can be high, or low, in the picture. They can be separate or in groups. Experiment with letting your worms move through the soil and find where they look best. This is a bit of playtime built into this project. Weaving the worms a little less in places will help keep them from looking as covered-up. If the dirt sheet should tear - no worries! Just tape it to fix it.

Here is my completed worm weaving project! If you like, you can fix the worms in place with some tape or glue, but keeping them unstuck is okay too. The weaving holds them in place if you are careful.



If you like, you can re-watch today's story while playing with your worm project! Engaging extra senses helps to reinforce memories of the things we learn.

As we do Pollywog At Home, you are encouraged to send photos of your Pollywog projects to me at my email address: r.schiding.studio@comcast.net. I will share the work on the Library's website at the end of our Pollywog lessons. (I do not show children's faces in photos of their work that I share.)

Okay - That's all for today!

You and I are lucky to be able to have art and storytime together. Thanks to **Wernersville Public Library!** Libraries are the best! They give us the chance to have wonderful things, without needing to spend extra money! Remember to thank them when you get the chance.

((You can receive credit for attending and working through this Pollywog At Home! Please follow this link to a form that will go to the Wernersville Public Library for an attendance prize: <https://forms.gle/WPn4raFqHBLayPjK6> – – copy and paste into browser if clicking does not work))