

Hello everyone! Mr. Wiggles here trying to keep warm in this cold northern winter. Remember to keep me and my red wiggler family away from cold places like windows, doors and other drafty areas. We don't like cold weather and temperatures below 10° C are harmful for us.

Not all worms have to be warm like us red wigglers. There are some types of worms closely related to earthworms called ice worms. These ice worms only live in freezing temperatures.

Mesenchytraeus solifugus, also known as the North American glacier ice worm, is a species of earth worm that lives only in temperatures between -7°C and 5°C.

Those are temperatures around where water freezes! This worm has adapted to live in ice eating only algae and pollen which is a lot less than what us red wigglers eat. If you heat these worms up above 5°C they will literally melt! That means that If these ice worms were in your worm bin they would be nothing more than a bunch of puddles.



In the cold winter months some earth worms survive by burrowing deep into the soil below the frost line. Once they burrow they ball up and hibernate until temperatures rise.

Red wigglers however do not do this. If your red wigglers experience freezing conditions it is likely that they will not survive. Don't fear too much as the cocoons that your worm friends laid before the freeze will be able to hatch again. Once temperatures are optimal a new batch of worms will grow. This is how red wigglers survive live through winters in the wild.

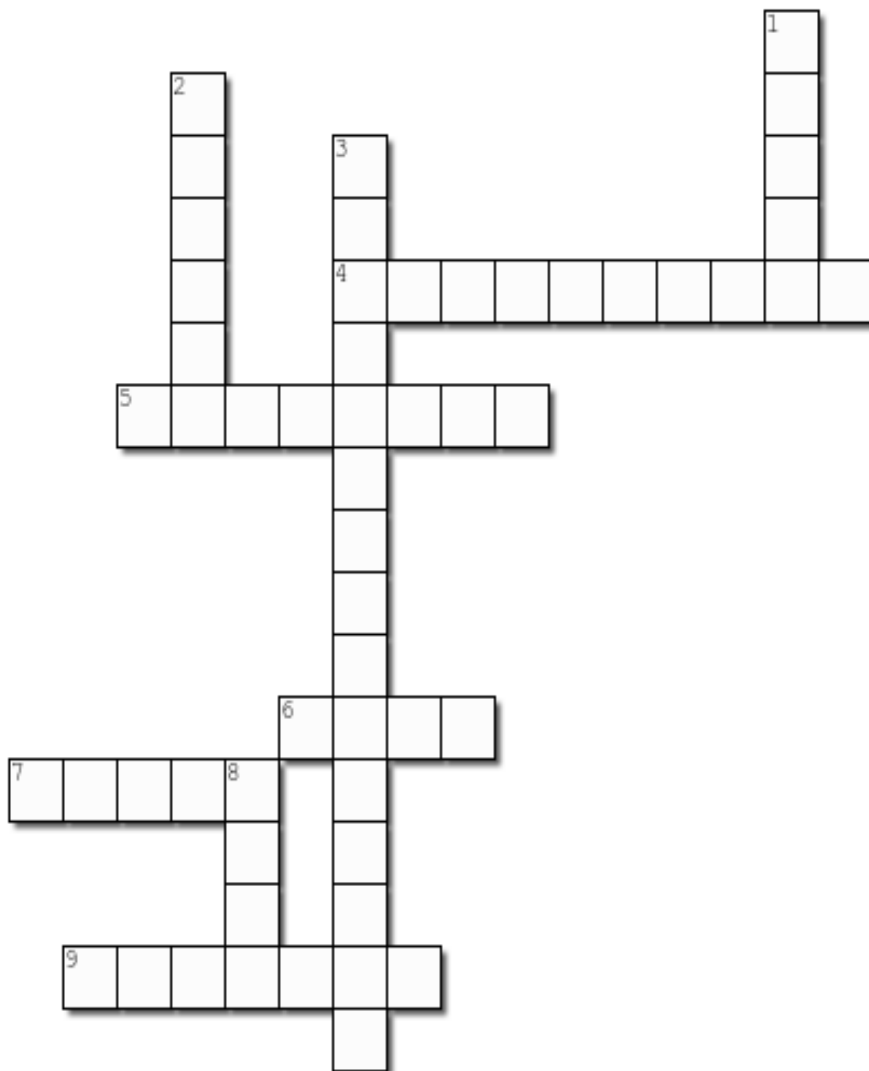
REAPS READER

Have you helped the environment today?

Vermicomposting

Name: _____

Complete the crossword puzzle below



Created using the Crossword Maker on TheTeachersCorner.net

Across

- 4. this is the type of worm that you have in your bin
- 5. these are added to soil to help plants grow and are produced by worms
- 6. this animal eats your waste to create castings
- 7. you _____ your worm bin by lifting the bedding to give them air
- 9. this can be leaves or shredded paper and provides a place for you worms to live

Down

- 1. the color of baby worms
- 2. this long yellow fruit's peel can be eaten by your worms in a week
- 3. using worms to compost your waste into castings
- 8. when your worms need food you _____ them