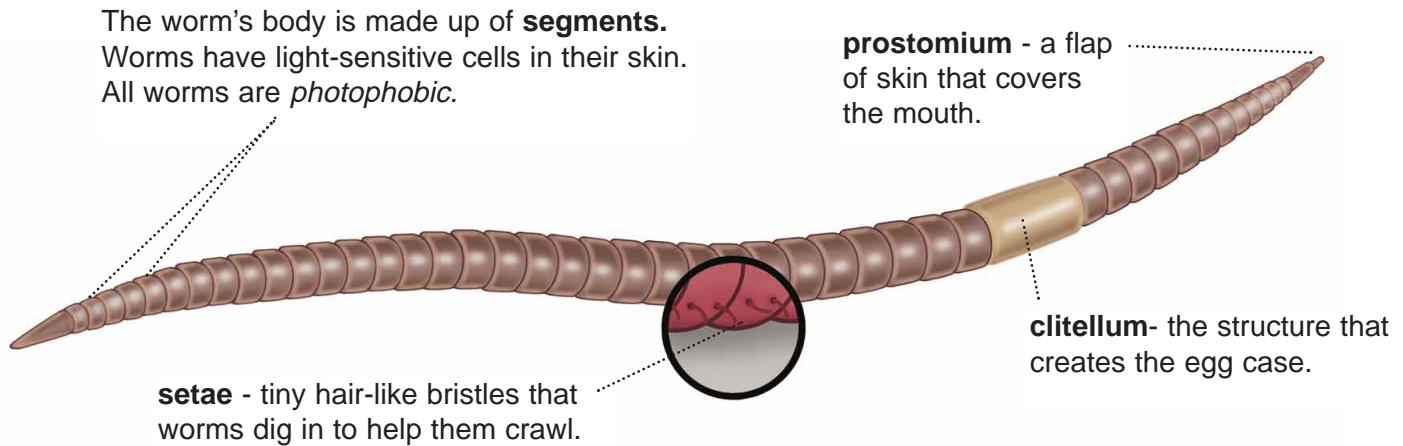


General Worm Anatomy



Identify the TWO species of composting worms in your bin



The two species of composting worms we are studying today are called *Eisenia fetida* and *Perionyx excavatus*. These worms live in dense colonies and process decaying organic matter of all kinds. In nature, both *Eisenia* and *Perionyx* feed on animal manure. We cultivate them in bins to eat our food waste, paper, and cardboard. They produce *vermicast*, a nutrient-rich and microbially-active fertilizer.

It's easy to identify which is which! Look for the difference in anatomical features and the way they move. Both are excellent eaters and reproducers.

Eisenia fetida

Common names: redworm, red wiggler, tiger worm

- Stout body build
- Protuberant clitellum on segments 24-32 (like a puffy cummerbund)
- Visible prostomium
- "Laid-back" manner

Perionyx excavatus

Common names: Indian blueworm, Malaysian blue, blueworm

- Slim body build
- Smooth clitellum on segments 13-17 (like a collar)
- Prostomium too small to see
- Animated, energetic manner