

## Earthworm Dissection Questions

1. anterior = front  
posterior = back end  
dorsal = back side  
ventral = belly
2. Rings in a segment worm are called a somite
3. The earthworm's body plan is often called a "tube within a tube" because it has an outer tube that forms the body wall and an inner tube that forms the digestive tract.
4. An earthworm's skin must remain moist because if it becomes dry it won't be able to absorb oxygen.
5. Earthworms extract nutrients from the soil as they eat through the soil. They are herbivores.
6. The crop stores dead and decaying plant and animal matter. The gizzard grinds organic matter into small pieces with help from sand in the soil.
7. Castings are undigested matter from the worm (worm feces). They help fertilize the surrounding soil.
8. The dorsal side of the earthworm appears darker, because the larger blood vessels are closer to this surface.
9. Earthworms are hermaphrodites. They produce both sperm and eggs.

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10. Nephridia are part of the excretory system. They are two open-ended tubules. Each nephridia opens into the coelom (fluid-filled space inside the body), and then passes through the septum into the next posterior segment. The waste finally arrives at an exit pore, called the nephridiopore where waste is excreted.
11. Dorsal ganglia is the earthworm's brain. A ventral nerve cord runs the length of the worm with smaller ganglia ending in nerves @ every segment. The ganglia process chemical, mechanical and light stimuli.
12. Earthworms burrow, loosening and aerating the soil as they move. They have bristles (setae) in groups around or under their body. The bristles, paired in groups on each segment, can be moved in and out to grip the ground or the walls of a burrow.
13. Aortic arches are similar to hearts. Blood flows from the arches into the ventral vessel and then on to the capillaries.

14.	Worms	Both	Humans
digestive	- crop, gizzard	- mouth, pharynx esophagus, intestine anus	- teeth, tongue, liver, gall bladder stomach, rectum
circulatory	- aortic arch - 5 "hearts" ventral vessel dorsal vessel	- capillaries	- 1 heart - arteries + veins
reproductive	both male + female organs		either male or female organs
excretory	nephridia		- colon + anus