

ELINOR WONDERS WHY

EWV INTERSTITIAL 111: MS MOLE

Worms in compost

Written by Jorge Cham and Daniel Whiteson

FOLLOWS: "Composting"

CONNECTION: More detail on what worms do to turn leaves and veggie scraps into compost.

CURRICULUM: Worms eat dead leaves and what "comes out the other side" is an important part of the soil.

Goals: LS5. Begin to understand that animals and plants depend on other living things and nonliving things in the environment to meet some of their needs: [The kids realize that worms help turn old food and leaves into new soil for plants.]

ES3b Demonstrate an awareness of and the ability to discuss in simple terms the need for conservation, recycling, and respect for the environment. [The kids learn that their fruit and veggie scraps can be composted]

FIRST DRAFT: 3/11/2019

1. INT CLASSROOM -- DAY

Open on Ari holding an apple core, approaching the garbage can.

1	MZ. MOLE	1	
	Ari, bring that apple core over		
	here. I have a special place for		*
	leftover fruits and veggies!		

Mz. Mole shows him a small container of veggie and fruit scraps and puts Ari's apple in. Elinor and Olive come over, looking interested. *

2	MZ. MOLE (CONT'D)	2	*
	These leftovers will be someone		*
	else's lunch!		

3	OLIVE	3	*
	Gross! Who would eat that?		

4	MZ. MOLE	4	
	Worms! To them it's delicious! I'll		
	tell you all about it in today's		
	story time.		

The kids gather round. She opens a book with a diagram of a the compost cycle [apple -> apple core -> soil -> tree -> apple...] on the cover.

2. INT COMPOST PILE -- DAY

We see a pile of red and yellow leaves and fruit and veggie scraps.

5	MZ. MOLE (CONT'D)	5	
	Nature has a wonderful way to reuse		
	leftover food, and also old plants		*
	and leaves.		*

6	ARI	6	
	That's compost! We do that at home.		

We zoom into the pile, showing leaves and scraps in more detail. As we watch, they get old and dry and brown.

7	MZ. MOLE	7	
	That's right! A pile of leftover		*
	fruits and veggies or any old		*
	leaves and plants will turn into		*
	new soil for plants to grow in.		*

We see a time progression [sunrise/sunsets?] as the pile turns into rich soil. *

8 ELINOR 8
That's so INTERESTING, Mz. Mole!
But HOW do leaves and leftovers
turn into new soil?

As it turns into soil, we see worms are wriggling around
inside.

9 MZ. MOLE 9 *

The old leaves, plants and food get
dry and crumbly, but there are also
some special helpers. Worms! They
eat it up!

We see the worms diving in and eating with gusto. <SFX:
CHOMP, CHOMP> *

10 ARI 10

Yuck! <beat> Wait, do they LIKE it?

The worms stop eating for a second.

11 MZ. MOLE 11

It's their favorite!

The worms dive in with renewed energy. <SFX: CHOMP, CHOMO>

12 OLIVE 12 *

How do the worms turn the old stuff
into soil? *

We zoom in on the worms, see the food going in their mouths.

13 MZ. MOLE 13 *

Well, the worms eat the leaves and
leftovers and then the worm poop
becomes part of the soil!

We see worm poop coming out of the back of the worms. *

14 ARI 14 *

We put the new soil in our garden.

We see the compost sprinkled into a garden.

15 MZ. MOLE 15

Yup! It helps other plants grow.

16 OLIVE 16 *

And those plants can make more food
for US! It's all a big circle!

17	MZ. MOLE	17	*
	Yes! It's a CYCLE. The food gets RE-		*
	used, so we call it RE-cycling!		*

The book illustration shows the cycle.

3. INT CLASSROOM -- DAY

All the kids are excitedly putting their leftover apple cores, and orange and banana peels into the compost bin.

18	MZ. MOLE	18
	Look at all this wonderful worm	
	food!	

19	OLIVE	19
	First it's lunch time for us....	

20	ELINOR	20
	...then it's lunch time for the	
	worms!	

*