


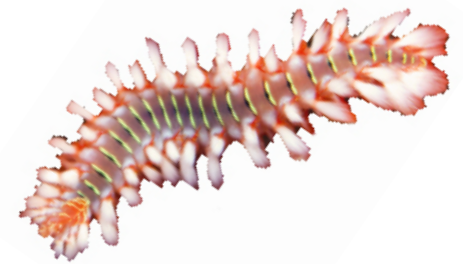
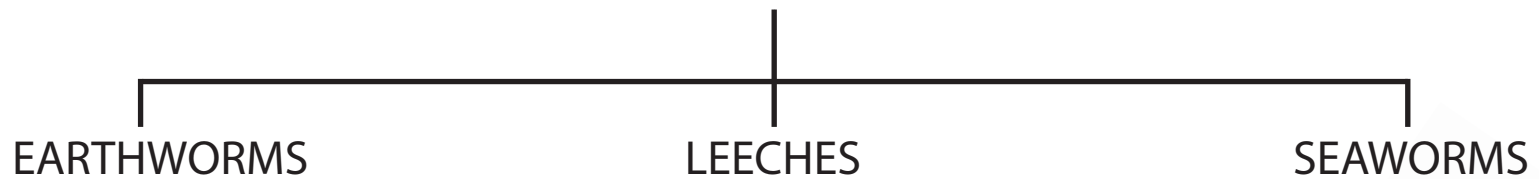
# Annelids

## Discussion Questions:

- 1) What animals belong to the annelid group?
  - 2) What features do they have in common?
  - 3) What types of environments do they inhabit?
  - 4) What is the best way to remove a leech from your skin?
  - 5) In what ways have humans used earthworms and leeches to benefit themselves and the environment?
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- A photograph of a pinkish-brown earthworm in dark soil. The worm is coiled in a loose S-shape, with its head on the right side. The soil is dark brown and appears moist, with some small roots and organic matter visible. The lighting is soft, highlighting the segmented texture of the worm's body.

# ANNELIDS

- Have a long segmented body.
- Some are able to regenerate body parts.
- Have no legs.
- Have no antennae.





## Earthworms

Worms have long segmented bodies. They move by squeezing their muscles in a rippling motion to burrow into the soil.

Most worms rely on sensors in their bodies to detect light and gain awareness of their surroundings. Their tunneling movements aerate the soil, making it looser and easier for plant roots to penetrate and their castings (faeces) add nutrients to the soil.

Worms are an important part of the food chain for small animals.



Composting





Leeches





## First Aid For Leech Bites

Leeches inject an anticoagulant into your skin when they latch on. This makes the blood flow freely while they feed. You may hardly know they are there. After about 20 minutes, when they are full, they simply drop off.

A leech holds on to your skin very tightly so never try to pull it off. It can damage your skin and lead to infection. Instead, apply salt, salt water or vinegar or simply wait for the leech let go.

Wash the area with soap and water and apply pressure to stop the bleeding. Apply a cold pack if there is swelling.



Beach Worms



Star Horseshoe Worm



Christmas Tree Worm

## Seaworms

Seaworms move by squeezing their muscles in a rippling motion. Some burrow into the seabed and others crawl along the seabed or on rocks and coral.

Seaworms have adapted to the environment that they live in. Some have sensory appendages and feeding tubes that extend into the water, allowing the worm to filter the water for food. These worms can pull their appendages into their tube like body for protection.