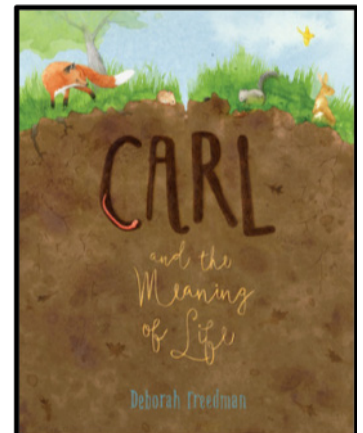


Ag in the Classroom Book of the Month

CARL AND THE MEANING OF LIFE *by Deborah Freedman*

Carl is an earthworm. He spends his days happily tunneling in the soil until a field mouse asks him a simple question that stops him short: "Why?" Carl's quest takes him on an adventure to meet all the animals of the forest, each of whom seems to know exactly what they were put on this earth to do, unlike the curious Carl. But it's not until the world around him has changed that Carl begins to realize everyone, no matter how small, makes a big difference just by being themselves.



To view this book on YouTube click [here](#).

Fun Facts

- *There are approximately 2,700 different kinds of earthworms.
- *In one acre of land, there can be more than a million earthworms.
- *Worms tunnel deeply in the soil and bring subsoil closer to the surface mixing it with the topsoil. Slime, a secretion of earthworms, contains nitrogen. Nitrogen is an important nutrient for plants. The sticky slime helps to hold clusters of soil particles together in formations called aggregates.
- *Earthworms have the ability to replace or replicate lost segments.
- *Baby worms are not born. They hatch from cocoons smaller than a grain of rice.
- *Even though worms don't have eyes, they can sense light, especially at their anterior (front end). They move away from light and will become paralyzed if exposed to light for too long (approximately one hour).
- *Worms can eat their weight each day.

Videos

- *Georgia Farm Monitor- Ranger Rick: Raising Worms To Make Great
- *Fertilizer Georgia Farm Monitor- South Georgia Farmer Raises Millions Of
- *Worms Worms Are Wonderful- SciShow Kids
- *Make the Most of Compost!

Activities

- *How To Build Your Own Worm Composter
- *Make a Wormery
- *Wormery Journal
- *Wormery Sequence Writing Activity
- *Worm Fact Color Page
- *Life Science and Inquiry- Observing Earthworms
- *Gummy Worm Vs. Earth Worm Activity
- *Dirt Cups With Gummy Worms