Worm Introduction

Grade Level: 2nd

Season: Fall/Winter

Larger IGS Unit: Soil

Essential Question: Where does soil come from? What do worms need to survive?

Objective: Students will understand that worms help to make soil through digesting organic matter. Students will see the process from beginning to end through the worm bin/apartments.

Materials:
Worm bin/apartments
Shredded paper
Watering cans/spray bottles
Finished worm castings
Food scraps
Gloves
Plastic spoons or tools for digging through worm bin

Introduction:
Ask the class: “Where does soil come from?”
"How do you think worms can help us make soil?"
Brainstorm a KWL sheet about worms (I Know-I Wonder-I Learned).

Activity: Set up different stations for students to do scientific observations

1) Worm bin – bins of finished worm castings. Students can scoop out finished worm castings into another container or into the watering can for compost tea
2) Worm bin – empty bins. Students can fill the empty bins with food scraps and shredded paper.
3) Worm observation – students can take a good look at worms, their sizes, shapes, movements, etc.

Wrap up/ Assessment: Each student shares one observation from the worm bins – one thing they didn’t know before. Add to the "L" column of the KWL sheet.

Extensions:
DIY worm bin to take home using recycled containers (ie. Tennis ball containers, ice cream containers)
Water the garlic beds with compost tea.
Use compost tea aerator kit to brew.