



Dissection 101: Earthworm

Student Checklist

Earthworm Checklist: Identify the following structures/locations.



- Use lines provided for additional notes to aid in future identification
- Outside structures/locations/orientation
 - Clitellum (location): Noticeable belt/Band-Aid like section toward the anterior end of the earthworm; produces slime-tube/cocoon during reproduction _____
 - Anterior (closer to clitellum, thicker/larger circumference) _____
 - Posterior (greater distance from clitellum) _____
 - Mouth: Fold at anterior end, deposit feeder _____
 - Ventral (usually lighter in color, hair-like setae - feels like sandpaper) _____
 - Dorsal (usually darker in color) _____
 - Segmentation: Distinguished on the exterior by noticeable band-like rings; internally the segments are separated by septa _____
- Draw and label the earthworm (Label: clitellum, anterior, posterior, ventral, dorsal, segments, setae, mouth)

Dissection 101: Earthworm



Student Checklist (Continue page 2)

- Inside structures/locations (closed circulatory system / complete digestion)
- Dorsal blood vessel: Movement of blood by pumping action

 - Aortic arches: Often referred to as the heart, pressure regulation

 - Seminal vesicles: Storage of sperm produced by the worm _____
 - Seminal receptacles: Storage of sperm received from another worm

 - Nerve cord: Tube-like structure found on ventral surface, usually white/cream in color, sensory function _____
 - Pharynx: Swallows food (soil), muscular tube, connects mouth to esophagus _____
 - Esophagus: Movement of food (soil) toward crop, lies below aortic arches _____
 - Crop: Food storage, similar to the stomach of a vertebrate, thin walled _____
 - Gizzard: Grinds food, thick walled, muscular _____
 - Intestine: Food digestion and nutrient absorption _____

Dissection 101: Clam



Student Checklist (Continue page 3)

Draw and label the inside of the earthworm with the following structures

Dorsal blood vessel
Seminal receptacles
Esophagus
Intestine

Aortic arches
Nerve cord
Crop

Seminal vesicles
Pharynx
Gizzard

There are tiny hair-like structures on the segments called setae which aid in movement. Circular muscles are used to reduce the circumference of the earthworm, increasing the length of a section. The setae secure the section to the surroundings and then longitudinal muscles contract reducing the length of the worm. The segments move independent of each other resulting in the characteristic seesaw-like motion of the earthworm.