LESSON PLAN by: Amanda Hayward
Lesson: What is an Earthworm like?
Length: 20-30 minutes
Age or Grade Intended: 2nd

Academic Standard (s):
2.1.1 Manipulate an object to gain additional information about it.

Performance Objectives:
Students will observe and manipulate an earthworm in order to see what physical aspects the worm has.

Advanced Preparation by Teacher:
Earthworms
Magnifying Lenses
**Teacher note** Worms are segmented and have bristles on each segment. Worms have no eyes or ears, but their pointed head and round body is sensitive to vibrations and chemicals. Earthworms absorb water and oxygen through their skin. Remind students to keep an earthworm moist at all times when observing or it can dry out and die. Earthworms prefer to eat dried leaves and other organic matter, but will eat soil and extract the decomposing nutrients that enrich the soil and provide the necessary nutrients for plant growth. An earthworm’s tunneling mixes and aerates the soil.

Procedure:
Introduction/Motivation:
(Engage) Ask: What are earthworms like? How do they move? Where do they live? What do they eat? How could we find the answers to these questions?

Step-by-Step Plan:
1. (Explore) Distribute an earthworm in a clear plastic cup to each group. Ask: What do you observe about the earthworm? Encourage students to use magnifying lenses to see details of the earthworms. If students wish, allow them to gently feel the earthworms or to hold them in their hands. Use the spoons to gently move the earthworms and see how they respond. Tell students to draw pictures of the earthworms in their investigation journals.
2. (Explain) Ask: What did you observe about the earthworm? What were its characteristics? Did your earthworm have eyes and ears? How do you think its senses things, finds food, and finds its way around? What did your earthworm tend to eat? What did it do?

Closure:
(Elaborate) Allow for one worm to dry up. Ask: Why did this worm dry up? What could have been done to prevent it from drying up? What do you think would happen to us if we didn’t have enough water?
Assessment:

(Evaluate) Check the student’s investigative journals. Listen to their responses of the students when discussing observations.