

## **TMA 2<sup>nd</sup> grade Worm Compost INTRO Script for Garden Masters:**

Give this intro to the students each time they do worm composting

"Hello Everyone, My name is \_\_\_\_\_.

The bin you see in front of you is a worm composting bin, a HABITAT for earthworms.

Raise your hand if you know what worm composting is?

When we do worm composting, we feed earthworms our food scraps, such as uneaten fruits and vegetables. The earthworms eat these scraps, and we use their POOP as fertilizer for plants in the garden!

Earthworm POOP is some of the best fertilizer in the world... and a little bit goes a long way.

Earthworm POOP is like a vitamin for the plants.. raise your hand if you take a vitamin??

A small amount of earthworm POOP put into the soil helps the plants absorb water and nutrients, just like a small vitamin helps us!

Earthworm POOP is also called WORM CASTINGS.

In order for the earthworms in our worm composting bins to make a lot of POOP, or CASTINGS, they have to stay healthy. We make sure the earthworms are healthy by checking the worm bins every week.

We want to make sure the earthworms are getting what they need to stay healthy.

**Let's think about what earthworms need, so that we can make a good HABITAT for them....**

### **Earthworms need:**

**SHELTER** (show students the SHELTER hand sign, ask students to give the SHELTER hand sign)

What do earthworms need shelter, or protection, from?

Sunlight: If the worms are in the sun or TOO HOT they will dry out.

Rain: If the worm bins fill with water, the worms will drown. Worms breathe OXYGEN through their skin.

Predators: Birds, rats, and raccoons might eat earthworms... the worm bins protect the worms from being eaten

**WATER** (show students the WATER hand sign, ask students to give the WATER hand sign)

Earthworms breathe OXYGEN through their skin... their skin needs to be moist, but not wet, in order for them to breathe. If earthworms are under water too long, they will drown. The worm bin keeps the earthworms moist, but not wet.

**AIR** (show students the AIR sign, ask students to give the AIR sign)

Earthworms breathe OXYGEN through their skin, the worm bins allow air to move through and give the earthworms OXYGEN to breathe.

**FOOD** (show students the FOOD hand sign, ask students to give the FOOD hand sign)

What do worm eat? (Point to the chopped food scraps)

Earthworms eat fruits and vegetables that are rotten or that we might throw away. Earthworms DO NOT eat citrus fruits, like oranges, lemons, limes, and tangerines, because these burn their skin. Worms also DO NOT eat meat, bread, or dairy.

We feed the earthworms, the earthworms give us CASTINGS that are fertilizer for the plants in the garden!

**We want to make sure the worms have a good HABITAT in which to live.**

Every week, we check TEMPERATURE, MOISTURE, and FOOD levels in the worm bins.

This is what we are going to do today!

Are you ready?

Good, let's go."