



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

- ☐ 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)

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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