

Fun Facts about Redworms



1. Redworms eat the same things as we do.
2. Redworms can eat over half their weight in food a day.
3. Redworms have amazingly similar blood to ours. Their iron-rich hemoglobin serves the same oxygen-carrying function as ours does.
4. Redworms breathe through their moist skin. Gaseous oxygen from the air diffuses through their skin, moving from a region of greater concentration (the air) to a region of lesser concentration (inside the worm). Carbon dioxide produced by the bodily processes of the worm also diffuses through the skin, moving from a higher concentration (inside the worm) to a lower concentration (the air).
5. Redworms have no eyes and cannot see but they use light sensitive skin cells, concentrated at the front end of their body, to sense light and move away from it.
6. A redworm's mouth has a small sensitive pad of flesh, called the prostomium, that protrudes above its mouth and stretches out to sense suitable food particles.
7. Redworms have no teeth. They use their highly muscular mouth, pharynx and gizzard to break up food particles.
8. Redworms will not reproduce by being cut in half. Depending on where the worm is cut, the front part may grow a new tail, but the tail can never grow a new head.
9. Redworms are hermaphroditic, meaning that all adult redworms have both male and female reproductive parts.
10. Redworms reach adulthood and can have offspring in 4-6 weeks.
11. Adult redworms can each produce 2-3 cocoons per week for six months to a year.
12. Baby redworms take 3 weeks to develop in a cocoon before they hatch. Two to three baby redworms hatch out of each cocoon.
13. It is estimated that eight adult redworms could produce 1,500 offspring within six months.
14. In the wild most redworms live and die within the same year. In a worm culture an individual redworm has been kept alive for four and a half years.
15. It is estimated that in the favorable conditions of the Nile Valley, earthworms deposit over 1,000 tons of nitrogen-rich castings per acre, per year.

