

5. Inside the classroom, count the number of individual organisms you collected in each category. Add these numbers to determine the total number of organisms collected by your class. Use these numbers to determine the percentage that each type of organism represents among the animals you trapped. If possible, reproduce the Pitfall Trap Survey Table and percentages on the white board so that the entire class can see it.
6. After you have completed counting the number of organisms collected, return the organisms to the area where they were collected. Remove the pitfall traps and fill the holes with soil.
7. Your teacher should lead a class discussion to talk about the results of the activity. Here are some questions that he or she may use to start the discussion:
 - How did the percentage of earthworms compare with the percentages of other organisms that were collected from the traps?
 - Based on what you know, do you think the earthworms collected from the traps are native to the area or an introduced, invasive species? Why or why not?
 - Was there a relationship between the amount of leaf litter surrounding the traps and the number of earthworms collected from that trap? If so, what was the relationship?
 - Why would the amount of leaf litter found in an area provide a clue as to how many earthworms might be expected to be found living in that area?

- Do you think the number of earthworms living in your school yard has an impact on the other organisms living there? Why or why not?

8. Answer the two questions asked at the beginning of this FACTivity.
9. As a class, make a list of at least three weaknesses of the inquiry process you just completed. Discuss what you could do differently to improve the study. (For example, a weakness might be that the traps were left out only overnight. An improvement might be to collect organisms from traps left out for 3 days.)

FACTivity Extension

(or in cooperation with the Art teacher)

Time: One class period

Need: Poster paper, colored markers

One of the ways invasive earthworms travel to new areas is through the actions of anglers. Create colorful posters to educate anglers about invasive earthworms. These posters should recommend that worms be disposed of properly (not discarded on the ground). Your teacher may set up a display of your posters in your school hallway or in a local library or other public area.