

# UZIMA

## THE GIFT OF COMPOST



### FUN FACTS ABOUT WORMS

- *THEY CAN EAT HALF THEIR BODY WEIGHT IN A SINGLE DAY (DON'T TRY THIS YOURSELF)*
- *IN ONE ACRE OF LAND, THERE CAN BE MORE THAN A MILLION EARTHWORMS!*
- *THE LONGEST EARTHWORM EVER RECORDED WAS 22 FEET LONG!*

### FROM TRASH TO TREASURE

**A worm doesn't seem like a very powerful animal, does it?** It doesn't have hands or feet and its brain is the size of a pinhead. **But, just like everything God made, it has a particular purpose and it is VERY good at its job.**

A worm's job is **composting**. Composting is when you allow organic materials (like leaves, grass, and food scraps) to decompose (or break down) naturally. When worms eat, they break down plant material and food, spreading the nutrients throughout the soil where they live. The holes they make as they move through the dirt also bring water and air deep into the ground and all of this makes the soil *very healthy*.

In Honduras, 66% of the population lives in poverty. For those families, growing their own food is not a hobby, it is a *necessity*. World Renew supports Honduran household farmers in making the best choices for their farms by offering agricultural training and support as farmers learn better ways of growing things.

Composting is a great way to have healthier soil, so World Renew wants to provide farmers in Honduras with training and the materials they need to make compost sites (bricks or wood or tarps to cover simple holes in the ground) -- **plus worms of course!**

With worm composting, their soil will have more air, more moisture, and more nutrients. The crops they plant will grow stronger and healthier and more bountifully. **When Honduran families have good food to eat, they have a more abundant life.**



**WORMS MAKE HEALTHY SOIL AND GOOD SOIL MEANS GOOD FOOD AND GOOD HEALTH.**





## LOWLY WORMS

If you've read any Richard Scarry books (and we hope you have they are so awesome), you know that **worms are lowly**. What could be less impressive really? With no arms and legs and a brain the size of a pinhead, worms live underground and seem like nothing more than bait for fishing.

**But this would be to entirely miss the stunning intricacy and unsurpassed synergy of God's creation.** Guided by its tiny brain, a worm munches its way through all sorts of leftovers (leaves, grass, weeds, rotten food) to produce rich, aerated dirt, the kind of stuff farmers call soil, the sort of compost city-slickers pay good money for by the bag. Worms really are the ultimate recyclers, turning trash to treasure one munch at a time.

Farmers in Honduras are learning to love the lowly worm, understanding the connection between its humble, limbless life and their quest for healthier soil and stronger, more nutritious crops. World Renew partners with these farmers to build compost piles and cultivate worm-rich soil.



**God must smile as the *granjeros* labor side-by-side with their composting co-workers, just as He imagined when He first thought it all up.**

Using the human body as a metaphor for the body of Christ, the book of Corinthians reminds us that every part has a purpose: **"The eye can't say to the hand, 'I don't need you!' The head can't say to the feet, 'I don't need you!'"** In fact, these verses tell us that God **"has given more honor to the parts that didn't have any,"** that they are to be treated with special care. Picture a farmer constructing a special bed of leaves and grass for her worms, gently turning in some leftover corn and rice for a treat. **Special care.**

1 Corinthians 12 verses 25-27 paint an extraordinary picture of creation that is mirrored in the way the lowly worm does its job to benefit we also-lowly humans growing our food: **"All of them will take care of one another... You are the body of Christ. Each one of you is a part of it."** We join in that splendid circle of life when we care for our brothers and sisters around the globe, all of us lowly, **each of us exalted in Him.**

## FOR BOOKWORMS

**For elementary ages, a good read-aloud will WORM the hearts of your little wrigglers**

If you're teaching a Sunday School lesson or doing a devotional with your class, try ***Thank You, God ... for Dirt and Worms*** by Christy Carter.

If you're in the classroom and want a more science-oriented book, look at

## COLLECTING FOR COMPOST

***\$25 makes an easy collect for any size group and they can certainly have fun trying for more!***

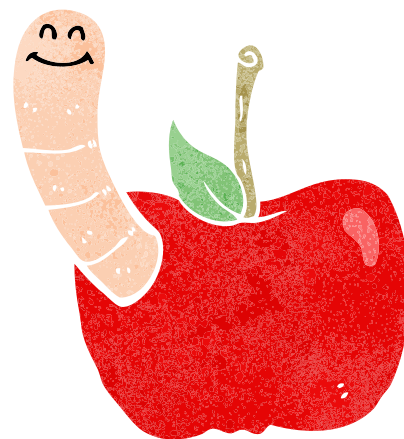
How about this for a fun class fundraiser? **Sell gummy worms** at recess for 50-cents each. Tie a number to each one and, at the end of the day, draw the winner for something fun like a special privilege (first in line for recess tomorrow?) or a special prize (how about an actual worm farm?).

An old-fashioned **bake sale** takes on a compost-y vibe if you sell **mini dirt cakes**. This plan works great for church coffee time too. Just Google "Pinterest Dirt Dessert" to find super easy recipes that kids from elementary on up can make together. **Dirt desserts for healthy dirt!**

You can always just **pass the collection plate** at church -- a plastic worm in each plate is a good reminder of your goal.

Interested in **building a worm composter**? There are hundreds of tutorials online. Want to see our favorite? Just search "University of Maine Worm Composting" on YouTube.

**For more ideas, visit [www.worldrenew.net/kidsfundraisingideas](http://www.worldrenew.net/kidsfundraisingideas)**



Wendy Pfeffer's ***Wiggling Worms at Work*** -- lots of facts, beautiful artwork and a great read-aloud style make this one a winner.

For entertaining AND educational videos, try SciKids YouTube offerings: ***Make The Most of Compost!*** or ***Worms Are Wonderful!*** And, if you're just looking for a one-minute introduction to the wild world of vermiculture, look also on YouTube for the Metropolitan Museum's ***Vermicompost -- Life In the Compost Bin***, a time-lapse of the crazy, underground work of worms.

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