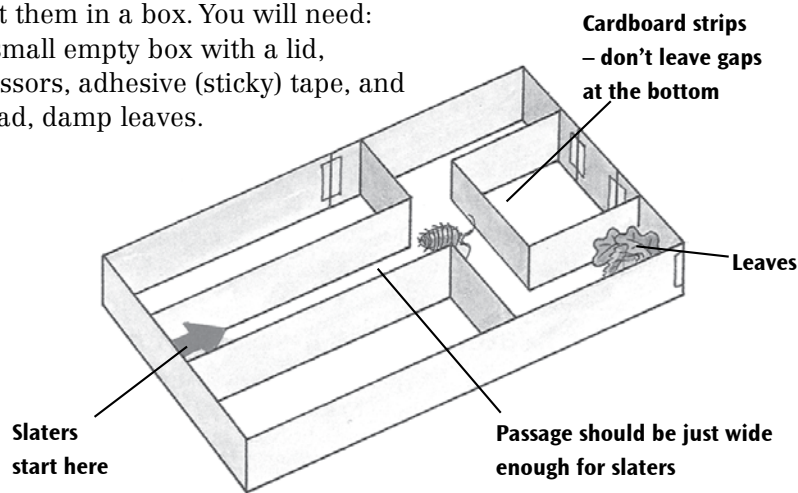


Study of Slaters

Slaters have sensitive antennae. Make this box, then collect six slaters in a container. Watch how they find their way when you put them in a box. You will need: a small empty box with a lid, scissors, adhesive (sticky) tape, and dead, damp leaves.



1. Use the lid to make three long strips for making the passages in the picture.
2. Let your slaters walk along the passage one at a time. When they reach the end of the passage, some will turn left and some will turn right.
3. Put damp leaves in the right hand side of the box. Now let the slaters walk through the box again. Which way do they go?

What happens?

The slaters will turn to the right towards the food.

Why?

The slaters can sense the food with their antennae. They use them to find the leaves.

Make a Wormery

Worms are hard to study because they don't like the light. As soon as they sense it, they wriggle away, trying to find a dark place again. To see how worms live and feed, make a wormery like the one shown here. Then find two or three worms to put in it. It is important to

You will need

- **Shoe box**
- **Adhesive (sticky) tape**
- **Pen**
- **Scissors**
- **Large plastic bottle**
- **1 mug of sand**
- **3 mugs of damp, crumbly soil**
- **Small cubes of onion and potato**

remember not to pull on the worms or you may hurt them. They are covered with bristles that grip the soil tightly.

1. Tape one side of the shoe box lid to the box, so it opens like a door. Poke holes in the top of the box with the pen to let air and light into the wormery.
2. Cut the top off the bottle. Then fill it with loosely packed layers of soil and sand. Scatter potato and onion on the surface.
3. Gently drop in your worms, then stand the bottle in the box and close the door. Leave it outside in a cool, dry place for four days.
4. After four days, go back and look at the bottle. What is different about the sand and soil?

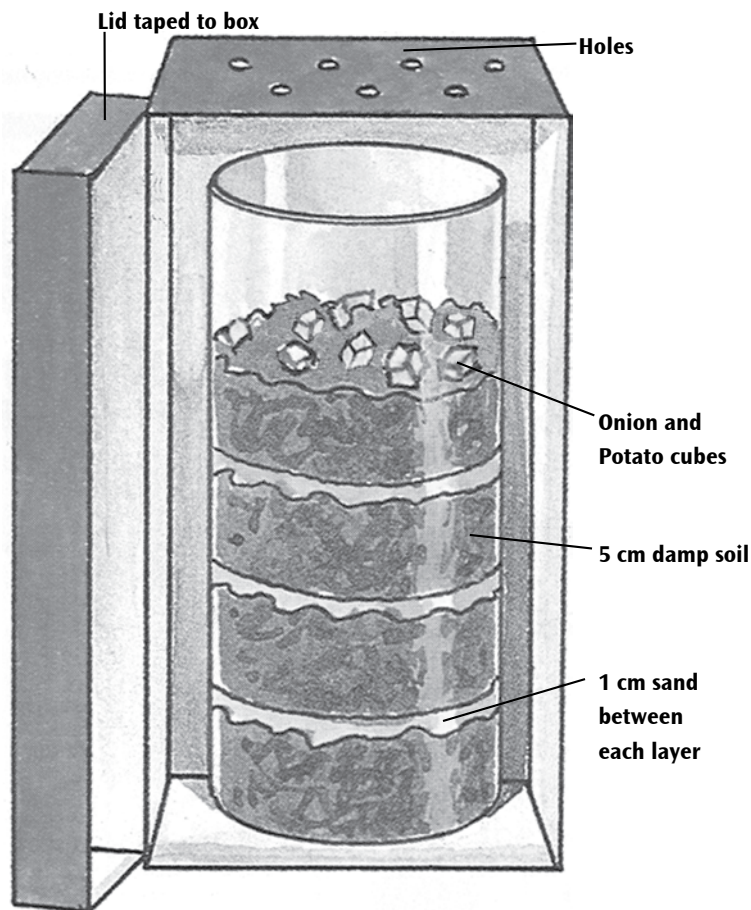
Don't forget: when you've finished with this project, put the worms back where you found them.

What happens?

After four days, the layers of sand and soil will have been mixed together.

Why?

The worms mix the sand and soil coming to the surface to eat the food and then tunnelling underground to get away from the light.



From *Animal watching* in the *Usborne Big Book of Experiments* published in 1996 by Usborne Publishing Ltd., London. An effort has been made to obtain copyright permission.