SCIENCE NOTES

WORMS

Worms are invertebrates. Three kinds of worms are flat worms, round worms and segmented worms. Segmented worms have complex body systems, while flat and round worms have simpler body systems. Some worms live inside the bodies of larger animals. An organism that lives in/on another animal is called a parasite and the organism that the parasite lives in/on is called a host. Parasites benefit by taking nutrients from the host at the host's expense.

ROUND WORMS

Round Worms have round tube-like bodies with two body openings. At the end, food is taken in and at the other end, waste is passed out. A round worm has a nervous system with a brain and other sense organs. Hook worms are round worms that are parasites. Some round worms live in animals and can pass into humans if they eat meat that is not properly cooked.

FLATWORMS

Flatworms have a flattened body, a simple nervous system, a digestive system and one body opening. Planarians, tapeworms and flukes are flatworms. The planarian is not a common worm. They have a triangular-shaped head and eye sports on the head. They regenerate, or regrow, parts. If a planarian is cut into two pieces, the head part will grow a tail and the tail part will grow a head. All parasitic worms lay eggs. Tapeworms lay eggs in the digestive system of the host. If these eggs burrow them-selves into tissues in our brains, hearts or kidneys, they will kill us.

SEGMENTED WORMS

Segmented Worms have bodies in sections. The earth worm and leech are segmented worms. Their bodies are in sections. The leech is a parasite which sucks blood. The earthworm lives in the soil. It makes the soil soft, and also enriches the soil with its waste which comes from the dead leaves that it eats.

PROTECTING OURSELVES FROM WORMS

To prevent infecting our bodies with parasitic worms, we should practice good hygiene (ie. wash our hands after using the bathrooms and keep dirty fingers out of our mouths especially after playing with dogs, cats, pigs, sheep or goats). Additionally, we should ensure that all of the meat we eat is properly cooked. This includes seafood.

LIVEWORKSHEETS