

Name _____

How Does a Worm Reproduce?

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. Being hermaphrodites allows worms to reproduce more easily because any two worms can mate, increasing the chance of fertilization.
2. The cocoon protects worm eggs by keeping them safe in a durable, moist shell until they are ready to hatch.
3. Worms produce many eggs to increase the chances that enough hatchlings survive to adulthood, balancing the lack of parental care.
4. Worm reproduction improves soil by producing more worms that aerate the ground, enrich it with nutrients, and support healthy ecosystems for plants and other organisms.

