

Name _____

The Life Cycle of a Worm

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The cocoon is important because it protects the eggs and provides a safe place for hatchlings to develop until they are ready to emerge.
2. During each stage, worms contribute to the environment: eggs create new worms, hatchlings start burrowing and feeding, juveniles improve soil health, and adults reproduce to continue the cycle.
3. Without worms, soil would become compacted, nutrients would not be recycled effectively, and plants might struggle to grow, impacting the entire ecosystem.
4. The worm life cycle shows that even the smallest creatures play vital roles in maintaining healthy ecosystems, supporting plants, and providing food for other animals.

