

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Worm Predators and Threats

Worms may be small, but they face many dangers in the wild. From predators to environmental changes, these threats challenge their ability to survive. Worms play an important role in the ecosystem, but they must avoid becoming a meal or being harmed by their surroundings.

One of the main predators of worms is **birds**. Robins, crows, and other birds often hunt worms as an easy and nutritious snack. Worms also face danger from **small mammals**, like moles and shrews, which dig into the soil to find them. Even insects, like beetles and ants, prey on worms in some habitats.

Worms face threats beyond predators. **Environmental changes**, such as dry weather or extreme temperatures, can make it hard for worms to survive. Worms rely on moist soil to breathe through their skin, so they are at risk if the ground becomes too dry. Similarly, heavy rainfall can waterlog the soil, forcing worms to the surface, where they are more likely to be eaten.

**Human activities** also pose dangers to worms. Pesticides and fertilizers used in farming can poison worms or disrupt their habitat. Habitat loss from construction or agriculture can reduce the areas where worms can live safely. Worms are essential for healthy soil, so these changes affect the environment as well.

Worms are also vulnerable to **parasites and diseases**. Some parasitic organisms attach to worms or invade their bodies, weakening them. Despite these challenges, worms have ways to stay healthy. They burrow deep into the soil to avoid predators, keep their skin moist to survive environmental changes, and use their sense of vibrations to detect danger.

Even though worms face many threats, they are tough and resilient. Their survival helps ecosystems thrive by enriching the soil and supporting plant life. Protecting worms and their habitats is important to maintaining a balanced and healthy environment.