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Gummi Worm Observation

Observation Lab

Biologists need to be able to observe, describe and record what they see when they study living things. The specimens used in this lab are not alive, of course, but they do provide a mechanism for practice in making careful observations and comparisons.

Obtain a specimen to be studied and place it on a clean paper plate. Follow the directions listed below keeping in mind that these specimens are materials for scientific study and should be treated with respect.

1. Common name for specimen: Gummi Worm

Scientific name: *Wormusca gummium*

Kingdom: Candium

Phylum: Stickiophyta

Class: Chewium

Order: Sweetius

Family: Elongacea

Genus: *Wormusca*

Species: *gummium*

2. Describe your worm:

a. How long is it: _____

b. How wide is your worm: _____

c. What color(s) is it: _____

d. How many segments does it have: _____

e. How can you tell the anterior end from the posterior end: _____

3. Compare your worm to another Gummi Worm:

a. How are they alike:

b. How are they different:

4. Test your worm:
 - a. Can it be stretched: _____ How far: _____
 - b. Is it elastic: _____ Does it return to its original size: _____
 - c. What happens if it is compressed: _____
 - d. Describe the smell of the worm: _____

5. Draw a picture of your Gummi Worm and label it.

6. Compare your worm to a real earthworm (from memory):
 - a. How are they the same:

 - b. How are they different:

Homework !!!

- ~~7~~ 7. On a separate sheet design an experiment that you could do with Gummi Worms. Include your PROBLEM, HYPOTHESIS, EXPERIMENTAL DESIGN (the step by step procedure), DATA (a table you could use to collect data). You will not need to run the experiment, so you will not have actual results nor a conclusion.

~~8~~ Your experiment will be turned in on: _____