

Hornworms

Volume 3

TEACHER'S GUIDE

What's In Your Kit?

Hornworm Poster

Reproducible Handouts

- Predict, Count, Compare
- Observe, Draw, Describe
- Hornworm Data Table
- Graph 1: Days and Lengths
- Graph 2: Days and Frass Balls
- Hawkmoth Life Stages
- Hawkmoth Anatomy
- Hornworm (to color and label)

Hornworm Supplies

- 6 Hornworms in Cup
- 5 Small Empty Cups
- Cup of Food (mashed leaf)
- 6 Tweezers
- 1 Small Sorting Brush
- Wood Shavings
- Mesh Insect House

Web Connection

earthsbirthday.org/hornworms/activities.asp

Free additional activities, handouts to print, and links to more about hornworms.



Hornworm Care

A hornworm is the larval stage (caterpillar) of the hawkmoth. Your hornworms will require no special care after they are placed into their own cups with food. Their food is mashed leaf, which provides all the nutrients and water they need.

Getting Started

- Number your cups 1 through 6 (including the cup of six hornworms) with an indelible marker or sticky labels.
- Put about $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch of food on the bottom of each cup.
- With the brush, carefully separate the hornworms and move them into the cups, leaving one in the original cup.
- **If two hornworms are stuck together**, they have grabbed each other for safety, and the tiny hooks on the ends of their legs are holding them tight. They will probably release within a few hours or overnight. Wait for them to let go, even if it takes a day or two.
- (See teacher prep below for assembling handouts for activities.)

Handling Hornworms

- Always be gentle! Use the brush or your fingers to handle hornworms. Try not to poke them.
- Move them onto a piece of paper for observation.
- If hornworms become coated with food (it sometimes happens), rinse them off with cool water (under your faucet is fine, but be gentle).