

Science UK: The science of worm watching – exercises

Do the preparation exercise first. Then, read the text about the science of worm watching and do the exercises to check your understanding.

Preparation

Match the vocabulary with the correct definition and write a-h next to the number 1-8.

- | | | | |
|--------|---------------------------------|----|---|
| 1..... | to get your hands dirty (idiom) | a. | how you feel at a particular time |
| 2..... | a worm | b. | not in a straight line |
| 3..... | a neuron | c. | an animal which is long and thin and lives in the ground |
| 4..... | to lay (an egg) | d. | to produce (an egg) |
| 5..... | mood | e. | to do manual or hard work |
| 6..... | a pattern | f. | a group of chemicals in a cell of a living thing which carry information about the characteristics it gets from its parents |
| 7..... | curvy | g. | a cell that sends electrical impulses in the brain, spine or nervous system |
| 8..... | a gene | h. | something that is typical and repeated (for example, a way of behaving) |

1. Check your understanding: true or false

Circle *True* or *False* for these sentences.

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|----|--|-------------|--------------|
| 1. | Nematode worms do not have a complicated nervous system. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 2. | The chemical serotonin is only found in worms. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 3. | Computer vision isn't very good at recording worms when they are laying eggs. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 4. | Serotonin is connected to the timing pattern of laying eggs. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 5. | Anybody interested in science can help the team by watching videos through Worm Watch Lab. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |
| 6. | The project has discovered everything about the way mood, behavioural and neural states are connected. | <i>True</i> | <i>False</i> |

2. Check your vocabulary: gap fill

Complete the gaps with a word from the box.

human	questions	mood	behaviours
relationship	work	ways	movement

1. People sometimes think that scientists sit around thinking and don't actually do much _____.
2. Worm Watch Lab allows anybody who is interested in science to get involved by watching and writing about worm _____.
3. Worms have a very simple nervous system but, in terms of chemistry, their neurons work very much the same as _____ neurons.
4. Serotonin is interesting for doctors because it affects _____ in humans.
5. Computers can record _____ well but find it difficult to record the worms laying eggs.
6. The team invented different _____ of using computer vision to measure interesting things about worm behaviour.
7. The team needed more eyes to understand the _____ between genes, the nervous system and egg-laying behaviour.
8. The team are trying to find answers to some very difficult _____.

Discussion

Would you like to be a research scientist?

Would you like to join in the Worm Watch Lab project?