

## Gait of an Earthworm

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In the previous segment, we learned about **The types of synovial joints**. In this segment, we will learn about The gait of an earthworm.

### What is an Earthworm?

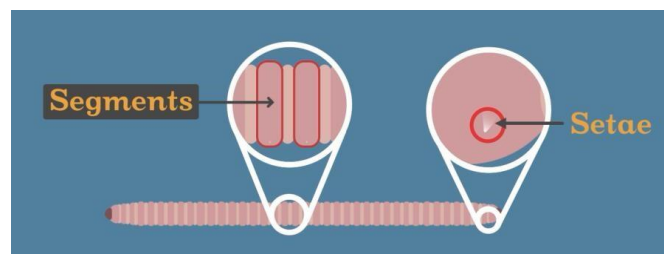
The earthworm is an invertebrate organism. It means they do not have any bones in their body. They are usually found in the soil.

### Which parts of the earthworm's body help in locomotion?

Segments and setae are two different parts of an earthworm's body that help them to move.

- **What are Segments?**  
The segments are the **Ring-like Structures** that cover the entire body of the earthworm.
- **What are Setae?**  
On the lower side of earthworm's body, small **Bristles** are present. These hair-like projections are called setae.

Their main function is to grip on the surface on which the earthworm moves.



Parts of earthworm's body

## How does an earthworm locomote?

- The earthworm fixes its **Posterior** end firmly on to the surface with the help of setae.
- Next, it extends its **Anterior** part of the body.
- Then it fixes the **Anterior** part and releases the end region. Earthworm shrinks its body and pulls its **Posterior** end near the front part, that is, the **Anterior**.
- This cycle continues and helps in the locomotion of an earthworm.
- Earthworms skin secretes a slimy substance that helps the earthworm to glide easily.

## Why are earthworms known as the farmer's friend?

- **Manure formation**  
 Earthworms are mainly found in the soil where their movement is carried along with the consumption of soil.  
  
 The soil which passes through an earthworm's body gets converted into useful organic matter.
- **Aeration of soil**  
 When the earthworms move through the soil they create pores. These pores increase the aeration of the soil.

## Summary

<b>Earthworm</b>	The earthworm is an invertebrate organism.
<b>Different Parts of Earthworm's body</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Segments - Ring-like structures</li> <li>• Setae - Hair-like projections</li> </ul>
<b>Locomotion in Earthworms</b>	The earthworms move with the help of segments and setae.
<b>Role of Earthworm in Soil</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manure formation</li> <li>• Aeration of soil</li> </ul>

## What's next?

In the next segment of Class 6 Science, we will learn about **The gait of a snail**.