



CHAYAT HASHAVUA: WORM

CAN ANYONE TEACH US THE *ENGLISH* NAME FOR THE *LOWEST* CREATURE ON EARTH?

- It's the *worm*.
- In Hebrew there are two words for the worm.
- *Tolah* (תולע), which also means “scarlet stuff,” because worms provided a coloring in ancient times.
- The other Hebrew name for the worm is *rimah*, from the root רמה, which means “to become putrid.”
- Why might *rimah* be a good name for the worm? (Because worms feed on decaying animal and plant matter.)

HAS ANYONE EVER HAD A PET WORM?

- What do you like about worms?
- Did you feed it and, if so, what kind of food?
- Some say that without the earthworm, all plant life on earth would die and, in time, all life on earth would end.

WHAT IS IT ABOUT SOME WORMS THAT MAKE THEM UNLIKEABLE?

- Some roundworms are parasites—they cause disease.
- Who can teach us what a parasite is? (An animal that gets its food by living on another animal instead of supporting itself.)
- Have you ever had a dog that was sick from worms and, if so, what happened?
- Many puppies are born with roundworms, so they have to have medicine for several months.
- Who can teach us how dogs get tapeworms? (By swallowing an infected flea or eating uncooked fish or meat, so it's important to feed your pets only wholesome, cooked foods.)

IT'S TIME FOR THE WORM QUIZ!

- How many different kinds of worms are there in the world? (There are four kinds: flatworms, ribbon worms, roundworms, and segmented worms.)
- What kind of worm is a caterpillar? (It's not a worm—it's an insect.)
- How big are the biggest worms? (Ribbon worms, most of which live in the sea and you wouldn't want to meet up with, can grow to several feet in length.)

- How small are the smallest worms? (You need a microscope to see them.)
- How many different kinds of roundworms—the parasites that cause disease—do you think there are in the world? (Nobody really knows!)

ARE WORMS KOSHER?

- No—and let's leave it at that!
- Unless there's someone here who has an appetite for worm waffles!

THERE IS A PROVERB ABOUT WORMS.

- As the worm survives only by its mouth, so the Jewish people has only the words of its mouth.
- What do you think that means? (We are a small people in a world of great powers and our best defense against those who would harm us is what we teach with the words of our mouth.)



Gather the People

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