Creating Enthusiasm For Science In Children
Anne R. Bardo ’15, Beloit College Sustainability Fellows Program
Summer 2013

WELTY ENVIRONMENTAL CENTER

- Located 6 miles west of Beloit, WI at Beckman Mill County Park
- Offers year round educational programs for children and adults
- Serves over 1,000 children each summer
- Aims to create leaders within environmental and ecological education

The crowd of 88 children waiting for the program to start at the Brodhead Public Library

An informational poster displayed during the program

An hour long

WONDERFUL WORMS LIBRARY PROGRAM

- A supplementary program for the “Dig into Reading” library summer reading program
- Travel to 4 counties in the WI-IL Library Districts
- For toddler to early elementary aged

Our life-sized never ending game board on which we play our worm trivia game.

A close up of some of our worms

A finished worm craft, complete with a stelium or collar which is part of the reproductive system

The “dissected” worm complete with its intestinal tract

Inside of the worm bin used in the program

www.weltycenter.org
608*361*1377

PROGRAM STRUCTURE

- Group introduction to worms (20 min)
  - Interactive story - “Willie the Worm” with puppets and movements. An inspirational tale about how important worms are
  - “Dissected” worm made from felt and a pool noodle to illustrate the digestive tract
  - Information on worm biology
- Break into stations (40 min)
  - Worm trivia game consisting of true/false questions about worms on a human-sized infinity game board
    - E.g. “T/F: Worms have eyes”
  - Live worm bin with 50+ worms at a touch station
  - Vermiculture (worm composting organic material) handouts with step by step instructions on how to make one
  - Worm craft teaching anatomy - made with pipe cleaners and beads along with a coloring sheet

CHILDREN’S REACTIONS

- Enthusiasm
- Excitement
- Bewilderment
- Curiosity

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