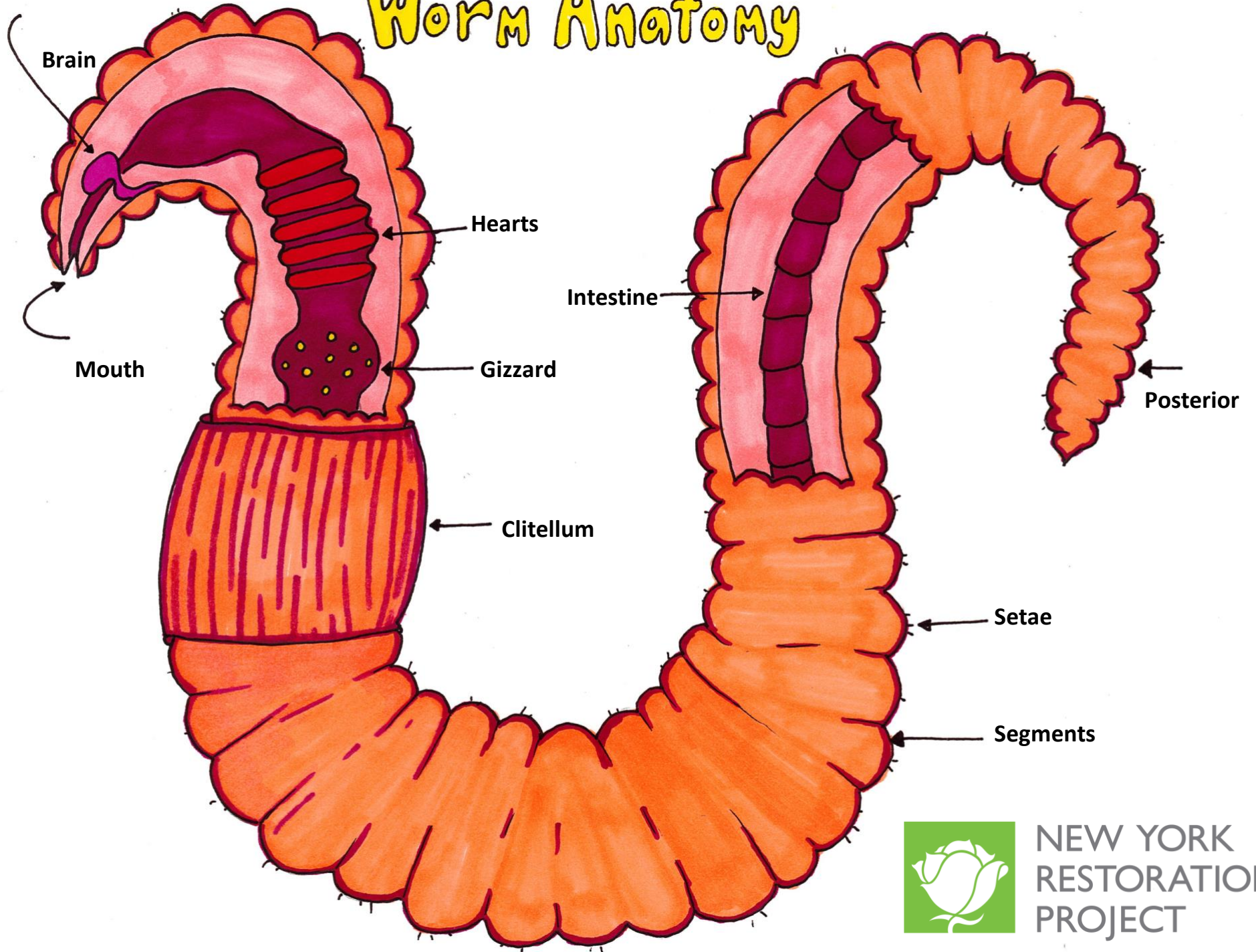


# Worm Anatomy





## Amazing Worm Anatomy



**Mouth:** Worms eat decaying plant matter and return it to the soil. Worms eat over half of their body weight every day! If you did that you'd be eating all day, which is basically what worms do!

**Brain:** Their small brain helps them process moisture levels, vibrations, heat and light.

**Heart:** Worms have five "hearts."

**Gizzard:** Because worms don't have teeth, they swallow little bits of rock or sand to help break down their food in the gizzard

**Clitellum:** This band is visible when the worm is ready to reproduce. Worms are hermaphrodites, meaning males and females have the same reproductive organs. The clitellum secretes the egg sac which contain eggs smaller than a grain of rice.

**Segments:** Segments expand and contract to help the worm move. Worms don't have eyes or lungs, but sense light and breathe through their skin. If the worm dries out it can die, yet too much moisture can also harm them. When it rains, they leave their flooded holes and come to the surface.

**Setae:** These little hairs help the worm feel vibrations.

**Intestine:** The worm absorbs the nutrients from its food as it travels through the intestine.

**Posterior:** This is where the finished compost comes out of the worm. Worm castings (poop) are rich in nitrogen and other nutrients that the plants need to survive.