Virtual Earthworm Dissection

Images Courtesy of:
http://www.flushing.k12.mi.us/srhi
gh/tippettl/biology/lum/index.html
The top of the earthworm is the dorsal side. This is the darker side of the worm. The bottom of the earthworm is the ventral side. This is the lighter side of the worm.

The anterior region of the earthworm is the head region. There is a mouth at the head region.

The posterior region of the earthworm is the tail region. There is an anus at the tail region.
External Anatomy: Clitellum

Note the swelling of the earthworm near its anterior side. This is the **clitellum**.

Each segment of a worm has small **pairs of bristles** called **setae** which help it move.
Digestive System: Mouth

Mouth: tiny opening at anterior end through which food enters
Digestive System: Pharynx

Pharynx: “throat”; smooth part following the mouth
Digestive System: Esophagus

Esophagus: main food tube connecting pharynx to crop
Crop: *temporary* holding tank controls food entering gizzard.
Digestive System: Gizzard
Digestive System: Intestine

Intestine: absorbs nutrients (food) and water
Virtual Animation of Worm Digestion

- http://yankeeworm.org/ym_about.html

- The animation on worm digestion is courtesy of North Carolina State University. HERMAN THE WORM.
Circulatory System: Aortic Arches

Aortic Arches (Hearts): 5 of them pump blood
Circulatory System: Dorsal Blood Vessel

Dorsal Blood Vessel: main blood vessel through which blood travels
Reproductive System: Seminal Vesicles

Seminal Vesicles: produce sperm (large white organs)
Reproductive System: Seminal Receptacles

Seminal Receptacles: store sperm (smaller white organs)
Nervous System: Ventral Nerve Cord

Ventral Nerve Cord: sense stimuli (small white cord under intestine)
Cuticle

Cuticle: outer protective covering
Septum

**Septum**: individual segment divisions that hold the skin onto the worm
Internal View: How many parts can you name?
Labeling Diagrams

Match the letter appearing in front of each word in the word bank with the number of the structure.

a. Mouth  
b. Pharynx  
c. Esophagus  
d. Crop  
e. Gizzard  
f. Intestine  
g. Aortic Arches (Hearts)  
h. Dorsal Blood Vessel  
i. Ventral Blood Vessel  
j. Clitellum  
k. Seminal Vesicles  
l. Seminal Receptacles  
m. Ventral Nerve Cord  
n. Brain
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