

## Earthworm Reading

**Earthworms** Earthworms are the most complex worms. Look at Figure 9-14 as you read about earthworms. Like all worms, they have a head end and a tail end. Each segment except the first and last has four pairs of small bristles called **setae**. Earthworms use their setae and sets of tiny muscles to move. A list of other earthworm features follows.

- Earthworms have a complex digestive system. Food passes into the crop and gizzard where it is stored and then ground up. Food is digested and absorbed in the intestine.
- Earthworms have a **closed circulatory system**. In a closed circulatory system, blood moves through vessels, or tubes, in the body. In the head end, two large vessels meet and form five pairs of hearts, which pump blood through the vessels.
- Earthworms have a nervous system. Nerves run along the body and connect to a simple brain.
- Earthworms have male and female sex organs. A single worm, however, does not mate with itself. Earthworms reproduce sexually.
- Earthworms do not have a respiratory system. Gases pass into and out of the earthworm through its moist skin.

