

Would you believe...

- that fungi are more like insects than they are like plants?
- that up to 95% of plant and tree species cannot live without their fungal helpers?
- that for every person on earth there are approximately 2 tons of fungi?
- that some mushrooms have been known to grow so big as to be mistaken for sheep?
- that there is one fungus that is thought to be 1500 years old?
- that there are fungi that glow in the dark?
- that fungi can be found on every continent in the world, including Antarctica?



Praise for The Fungus Files

"Through her dedicated efforts, Stewart has achieved something extraordinary: a well-illustrated introduction to the fungi that covers many aspects of this numerous and unique group of organisms, while making the information accessible to children in several different grades. Many of the graphics are extremely graceful, and they are in turn enhanced by several different kinds of word puzzle. In many places she has also inserted aids for teachers, and she leads the students on in graduated steps, so that they can be instructed to whatever level they are capable of absorbing. Both teachers and children will learn many new and fascinating things, and this is all the more exciting because the fungi, despite their tremendous importance and ubiquity, are usually almost ignored in the school curriculum..."

--Bryce Kendrick, author of *The Fifth Kingdom*

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Introducing...

The fungus FILES



AN EDUCATOR'S GUIDE TO FUNGI

K-6

SECOND EDITION

Download your copy

http://www.namyco.org/education/fungus_files.html

Table of Contents

I. Introduction

Understand what constitutes the fungal kingdom; the diversity of forms; and their ecological roles.

II. Biology and Classification

Learn what separates the fungi from the plants and the animals; the basics of anatomy; and the use of dichotomous keys for identification purposes.

III. Reproduction and Development

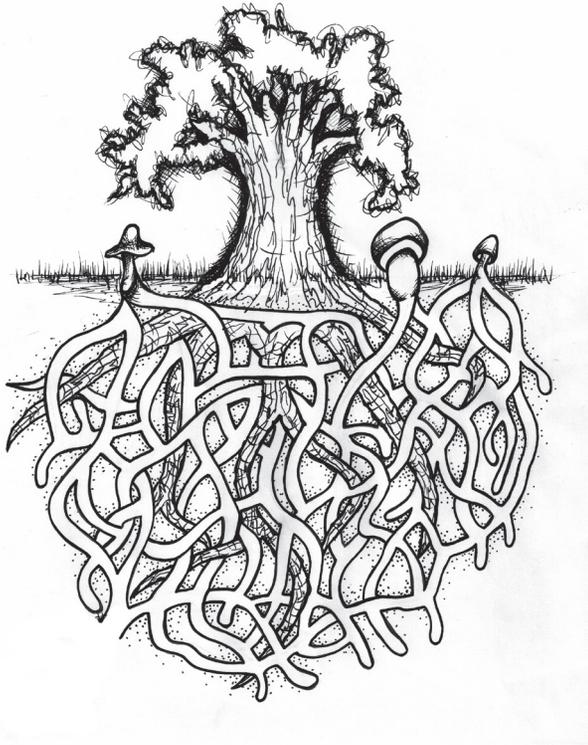
Develop an appreciation of fungal lifecycles.

IV. Adaptation and Environment

Become familiar with the concept of mycorrhizae and other symbiotic relationships.

V. Fungus Among Us

Examine our relationship with fungi throughout the centuries, which includes topics such as folklore and mythology.



Fungi are the perfect kingdom to use to introduce even your youngest students to **ecology** by highlighting concepts such as:

- mycorrhizal relationships (i.e. fungi that work in harmony with plant species)
- symbiosis (e.g. the marriage of fungi and algae in lichens)
- our relationships with fungi, both beneficial (e.g. antibiotics, food sources, biological control of insects) or adversary (e.g. agricultural diseases and human pathogens).

Activity 0.1



Your students will explore the fungal kingdom through worksheet activities, hands-on activities, and classroom demonstrations.

0.1 Fungi--The Hidden Kingdom

0.2 Find the Fungi!

1.1 Flora, Fauna, Fungi or Fiction?

1.2 Shaggy Mane: Connect the Dots

1.3 Anatomical Anagrams

1.4 Key to the Fungal Treasures

2.1 Wheel of Life

2.2 Adventures in Molds and Yeast

2.3 The Fung from the Dung Flipbook

3.1 CrissCrossed Fungi

3.2 A-mazing Mycorrhizae Mycelial Maze

4.1 Fungal Folklore and Beyond

4.2 Guess the Guest of Honour Word Search

4.3 Hurray for Foray

4.4 Fields of Fungi Mini Field Guide

A co-operative, rather than competitive, learning approach is recommended where appropriate.