



Fungi

Picture It!

Check out these pictures of the fungi and their habitat!



Fungi

What's the gist?

- “Fungus” is the Latin word meaning “mushroom.”
- Mushrooms are the fruiting bodies or reproductive structures produced by some fungi.
- The mushroom cap is loaded with spores.
- Fungi use spores to reproduce.
- Fungi are not plants. They do not have chlorophyll, which is the green pigment needed for photosynthetic reactions. Nor do they have roots, stems, or leaves. Even their cell walls are different.
- Fungi have a chemical called chitin that make up their cell walls while cellulose is found in plant cell walls.
- Other organisms in the Kingdom Fungi are yeasts, molds, mildews, rusts and smuts.
- Fungi are an important food source. If you like eating King cake, breads, and soy sauce, you like foods made with yeast.
- Fungi are used in the production of cheeses like Camembert and Brie, and these cheeses get their flavors from the fungi.
- The soil is loaded with fungi.
- Fungi are essential decomposers in ecological systems.
- By breaking down dead organic material, they continue the cycle of nutrients through ecosystems.
- Some fungi can cause diseases in animals and humans like ringworm.
- Rusts and smuts cause serious damage to ornamental and agricultural crops.
- A scientist who studies fungi is called a mycologist.

Learning Links

Take a look at these materials to further your experience!

Read a story, Listen to a story, Take a tour here: <https://bit.ly/30v3yAQ>:

Video for kids on fungi: Fungi: Why Mushrooms Are Awesome | Biology for Kids
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2fooP2ienR0>

Fun facts for kids about fungi: Biology for Kids-
Fungi: <https://www.ducksters.com/science/biology/fungi.php>

Activity Corner

Check out these awesome activities for an enriching learning experience!

Coloring page:

<https://www.dltk-holidays.com/t.asp?t=https://www.dltk-holidays.com/fall/riddles/riddle3.gif>

Grow a Mold Garden:

http://www.kidsciencechallenge.com/pdfs/2010activities/Magical_Microbes_2010_Fungus_Garden.pdf

Blow up a Balloon Using Yeast:

<https://sciencebob.com/blow-up-a-balloon-with-yeast/>

You can join Mushroom observer.org and enter photos online and find out more information about fungi:

<https://mushroomobserver.org/>