

The Fungus Among Us

Purpose:

This lesson will introduce students to the basic characteristics and roles of fungi, including their importance to humans. This will be done through an online website in which students will answer certain directed questions but then have the opportunity to explore the website on their own in a less-directed manner. This method will allow students to gain content knowledge without it being teacher-directed. Additionally, students are often naturally engaged by technology.

VA SOLs:

BIO. 4. The student will investigate and understand relationships between cell structure and function. Key concepts include the following:

- b. Exploring the diversity and variation of eukaryotes

BIO. 5. The student will investigate and understand life functions of archaebacteria, monerans (eubacteria), protists, fungi, plants, and animals (including humans). Key concepts include the following:

- a. How their structures and functions vary between and within kingdoms
- b. Analyses of their responses to the environment

Materials and Resources:

PowerPoint

Laptops / Internet

Activity sheet

<http://www.virtualmuseum.ca/~mushroom/English/index2.html>

Classroom Management and Safety Issues:

Students should follow the Acceptable Use Policy for using school computers and Internet.

Procedures:

Engage (10 minutes)

1. Students will be shown a clip from the TLC documentary “Medical Marvels” in which one man’s life is severely altered after a fungal infection.

Explore (5 minutes)

2. Students will examine various photos of fungi (examples from around the world), which demonstrate fungi diversity. They will then be asked what role they think fungi plays in humans’ daily lives.

Explain (25 minutes)

3. Students will explore “The Fungus Among Us” website and complete an activity sheet. They will then share their answers to particular questions with the class. This should provide an opportunity for each student to make sure they have recorded accurate information on their own activity sheets.

Elaborate (5 minutes and then finished for homework)

4. Students will now re-analyze the role they think fungi plays in their daily lives. This will be used to assess the additional knowledge students gained by the completion of the lesson.

Evaluate

5. The activity sheet will be checked for completion (5 points). The post-activity writing will be graded using the following rubric, and the pre-activity writing will be consulted:

Criteria	Evidence	Scoring
Connections made to everyday life (between pre- and post-activity writings)	4 or more	8
	3	6
	2	4
	1	2
Answer shows accuracy	Completely accurate	2
	1 inaccurate usage	1
	2 or more inaccurate usages	0
POINTS POSSIBLE		10