

CrissCrossed Fungi



Activity 3.1

GRADES

Puzzle A: 2-4; **Puzzle B:** 5-6

TYPE OF ACTIVITY

Crossword puzzles

MATERIALS

- copies of page 52 or 53, depending on grade level; one per student
- pencils

VOCABULARY

Refer to answer key on page 51

OBJECTIVE

- To introduce new words associated with fungi

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

To learn about fungi, students need to become familiar with the terms used to describe their biology and ecology. These two crosswords will introduce students to some of the terminology associated with fungi along with trivia and factoids.

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS

1. Copy the crossword puzzle appropriate to the grade level of your class and hand out one to each student.
2. Have the students work through the puzzle on their own or in partners.
3. Go over the solution together and elaborate on the facts presented whenever appropriate.
4. Encourage questions!

YOUNGER STUDENTS

Grade 2 may be capable of doing the first puzzle; you may, however, wish to do it together as a class.

TEACHER'S ANSWER KEY**PUZZLE A (MORE SIMPLE)****Across**

1. The top part of the mushroom shaped like an umbrella is called the **cap**.
3. **Fall** is the best time of year to go mushroom hunting.
8. Fungi **recycle** dead leaves, grass, and wood and turn them back into soil.
9. Sometimes fungi will live together with trees and help the tree to get enough **water** and nutrients.
10. The crusty orange stuff you sometimes see on rocks is probably a **lichen**.
11. The "fruit" of a fungus is usually called a **mushroom**.

Down

2. If you squeeze a **puffball**, you will see a "puff" of spores released.
4. Plants reproduce with seeds, but fungi reproduce with **spores**.
5. A **toadstool** is a folk name for a poisonous mushroom.
6. Many tiny threads together form the fungus body called the **mycelium**.
7. When mushrooms grow in a circle, it is called a **fairy** ring.
9. Some **worms** like to eat mushrooms, but some fungi like to eat them!

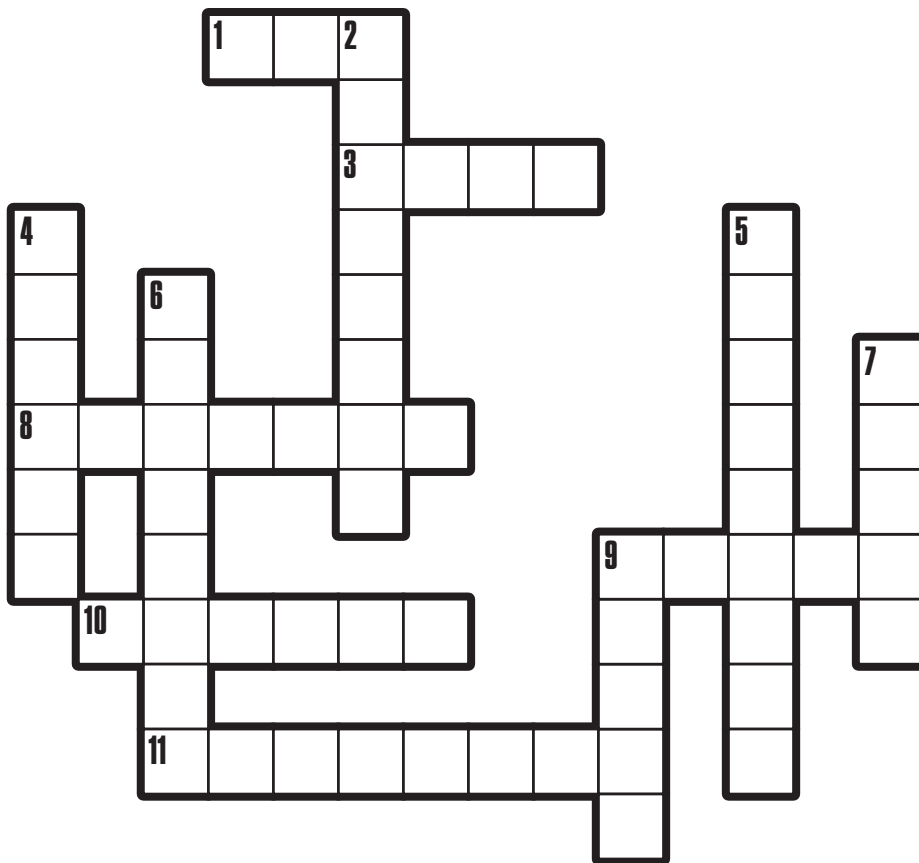
PUZZLE B (MORE ADVANCED)**Across**

4. When fungi recycle dead plants and animals, they release **carbon** into the atmosphere.
5. **Mycelium** has been called "the Earth's living internet" because it connects many living things to each other.
6. The scientific name for mushrooms that have gills under their cap is **agaric**.
10. The mycelium, or fungal body, is a network of branching threads called **hyphae**.
11. A **spore print**, much like a fingerprint, is a very useful tool in mushroom identification.
12. Fungi that cause diseases are called **parasitic** fungi.
15. **Lichens** are the result of a partnership between fungi and algae.
16. When sunlight enters a room, most of the flecks we see in the air are actually **spores**.
17. Fungi that help plants get nutrients and water from the soil are called **mycorrhizal**.

Down

1. In the food chain, fungi, bacteria, and other small organisms are collectively called the **decomposers**.
2. In France, dogs and female pigs are used to sniff out **truffles**, which are considered a delicacy.
3. **Foray** is the special name for a mushroom hunt.
5. Someone who studies fungi is called a **mycologist**.
7. Some fungi will actually set traps for and eat microscopic **worms** called nematodes.
8. Fungi represent one of the **kingdoms** of biological classification.
9. Baker's **yeast** is a type of fungi that makes bread light and fluffy.
13. Penicillin is the name of an important **antibiotic** drug that comes from fungi and has saved many lives.
14. The cell walls of fungi contain **chitin** which also forms insects' hard shells.

CrissCrossed Fungi A



ANSWERS

CAP
 FAIRY
 FALL
 LICHEN
 MUSHROOM
 MYCELIUM
 PUFFBALL
 RECYCLE
 SPORES
 TOADSTOOL
 WATER
 WORMS

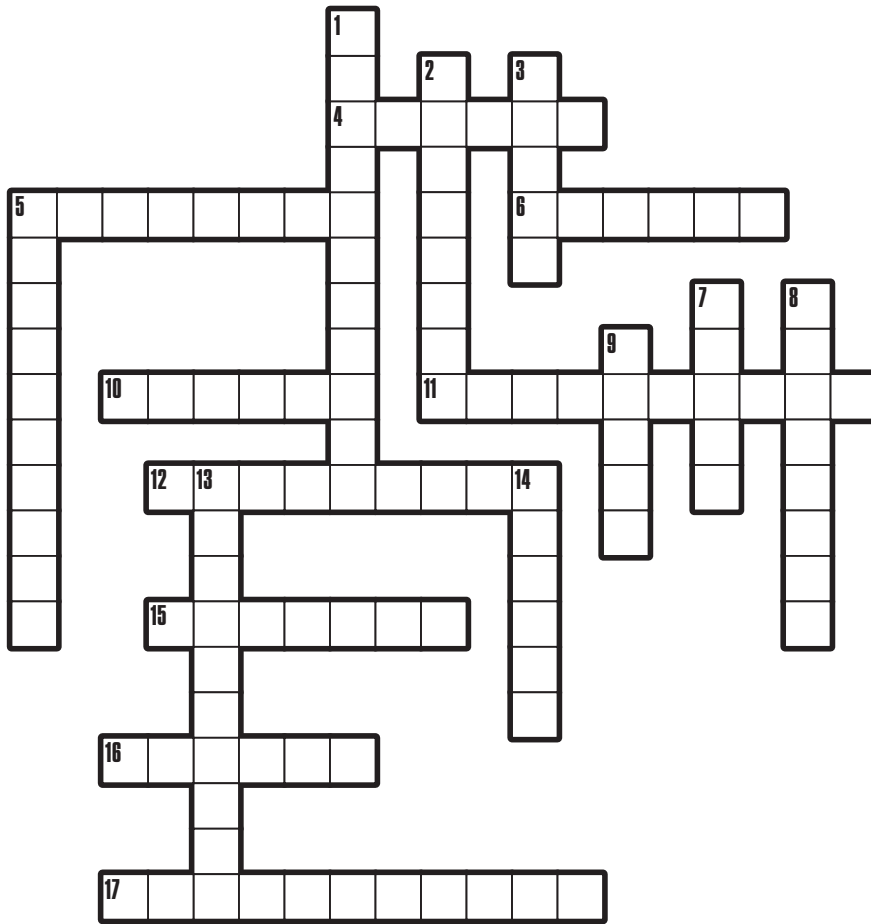
ACROSS

1. The top part of the mushroom shaped like an umbrella is called the _ _ _.
3. _ _ _ _ is the best time of year to go mushroom hunting.
8. Fungi _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ dead leaves, grass, and wood and turn them back into soil.
9. Sometimes fungi will live together with trees and help the tree to get enough _ _ _ _ _ and nutrients.
10. The crusty orange stuff you sometimes see on rocks is probably a _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _.
11. The "fruit" of a fungus is usually called a _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _.

DOWN

2. If you squeeze a _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ , you will see a "puff" of spores released.
4. Plants reproduce with seeds, but fungi reproduce with _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _.
5. A _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ is a folk name for a poisonous mushroom.
6. Many tiny threads together form the fungus body called the _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _.
7. When mushrooms grow in a circle, it is called a _ _ _ _ _ ring.
9. Some _ _ _ _ _ like to eat mushrooms, but some fungi like to eat them!

CrissCrossed Fungi B



ANSWERS

AGARIC
 ANNULUS
 ANTIBIOTIC
 BUDDING
 CARBON
 CHITIN
 DECOMPOSERS
 FORAY
 HYPHAE
 KINGDOMS
 LICHENS
 MYCELIUM
 MYCOLOGIST
 MYCORRHIZAL
 PARASITIC
 SPORE PRINT
 SPORES
 TRUFFLES
 WORMS
 YEAST

ACROSS

4. When fungi recycle dead plants and animals, they release _____ into the atmosphere.
5. _____ has been called "the Earth's living internet" because it connects many living things to each other.
6. The scientific name for mushrooms that have gills under their cap is _____.
10. The mycelium, or fungal body, is a network of branching threads called _____.
11. A _____, much like a fingerprint, is a very useful tool in mushroom identification.
12. Fungi that cause diseases are called _____ fungi.
15. _____ are the result of a partnership between fungi and algae.
16. When sunlight enters a room, most of the flecks we see in the air are actually _____.
17. Fungi that help plants get nutrients and water from the soil are called _____.

DOWN

1. In the food chain, fungi, bacteria and other small organisms are collectively called the _____.
2. In France, dogs and female pigs are used to sniff out _____, which are considered a delicacy.
3. _____ is the special name for a mushroom hunt.
5. Someone who studies fungi is called a _____.
7. Some fungi will actually set traps for and eat microscopic _____ called nematodes.
8. Fungi represent one of the _____ of biological classification.
9. Baker's _____ is a type of fungi that makes bread light and fluffy.
13. Penicillin is the name of an important _____ drug that comes from fungi and has saved many lives.
14. The cell walls of fungi contain _____ which also forms insects' the hard shells.