

Lesson 2: Classifying Mushrooms

Enduring Understanding:

- Mushrooms are good and good for me!

Lesson Objectives

- Students will summarize the key supporting details and ideas of a passage.
- Students will use the five senses to describe the characteristics and attributes of different mushrooms.
- Students will classify four different kinds of mushrooms.
- Students will build a clay model of a mushroom.

New Vocabulary

Mushroom varieties:

1. White button
2. Crimini
3. Portabella
4. Shiitake
5. Oyster
6. Enoki
7. Beech
8. Maitake



Mushroom Madness!



Materials

- Lesson 2 PowerPoint Presentation: "Name That Mushroom!"
- K-W-L chart started in the previous lesson
- "Mushroom Investigation" handout
- "Mushroom Varieties" video (linked in PowerPoint or available at: <https://youtu.be/ze4om166ru8>)
- Projector

For Mystery Bag Activity:

- 1 of each of the following varieties of fresh mushroom (If you have a large class, we suggest using more mushrooms and bags.):
 1. White Button
 2. Crimini/Portobello
 3. Shiitake
 4. Oyster
- 4 Paper bags

For Mushroom Investigations Activity:

- 1 of each of the following varieties of fresh mushroom per group of 2-3 students
 1. White Button
 2. Crimini/Portobello
 3. Shiitake
 4. Oyster
- One plastic bag per group of 2-3 students

For Build A Mushroom Activity:

- Modeling clay or playdough
- Materials for construction paper flags (slip of construction paper taped to a toothpick) for each child to label their clay mushrooms
- Construction paper flags (cut construction paper in strips for labeling)
- Toothpicks
- Markers or crayons
- Tape



Activity Session

Opening: Mystery Bag Activity

- Use the lesson 2 PowerPoint presentation to guide students through the lesson.
- Remind students that yesterday we learned about how mushrooms are grown and how they get from the farm to our tables.
- Review the K-W-L Chart started in the previous lesson and have students add what they have learned to the “L” section of the chart.
- Explain that today we will be learning how to classify mushrooms.
- (Prior to class) Place the four different types of mushrooms in four different brown paper bags. Students should not be able to see through the bags.
 - Each bag should contain one of the following types of mushrooms:
 1. White button
 2. Cremini/portabella
 3. Oyster
 4. Shiitake
- Have students volunteer to reach into the bags and feel the contents without looking inside.
- Direct students to describe what they feel in as much detail as possible and record their descriptions on chart paper.
 1. Ask prompting questions about the size, shape, texture, etc. of the mushroom.
- Once the class has recorded their observations of the contents of each bag, tell students that we will try to guess the type of mushroom contained in each at the end of the lesson.

Part 1: Reading About Mushrooms

- Introduce students to the article in the “Enjoy the Mighty Mushroom” handout and read section 1, “Healthy on the Plate, Gentle on the Planet” (displayed on slide 5 of the PowerPoint presentation) as a class (older students can read independently).
- After reading, answer the questions on page 6 of the PowerPoint presentation as a class.



Part 2: Mushroom Investigation

- (Prior to class) Place one of each variety of mushroom in plastic bags (4 mushrooms in total per bag). The number of bags you'll need will depend on class size but assume one bag per 2-3 students.
- Group students in pairs or groups of three and distribute plastic bags containing the four different types of mushrooms along with the "Mushroom Investigations" student record sheet (younger students will discuss their observations orally).
- Direct students to discuss the similarities and differences between the different types of mushrooms.
- On a large piece of chart paper, create a T chart. On one side of the "T" write "All Mushrooms". On the other side of the "T" write "some mushrooms" (see example in PowerPoint). Record students' comparisons on the chart.
- Using the PowerPoint slides, show the "Mushroom Varieties" video (linked in PowerPoint or available at <https://youtu.be/ze4om166ru8>).
 1. After viewing the video, record additional observations on the T-chart.
 2. Guide students to observe that all mushrooms have a cap, gills, and a stem.

Part 3: Build a Mushroom

- Now that students are familiar with the different types of mushrooms, tell students that they will be building their favorite mushroom out of clay!
- Display a diagram of a mushroom identifying the cap, gills, and stem (included in the PowerPoint).
- Using clay, allow students to build a mushroom that looks like any of the four types that they learned about.
- Help the children create gills for their mushrooms using a plastic knife.
- Using their construction paper flags, direct students to label the three parts of their clay mushroom as shown on the diagram in the PowerPoint presentation.
- Finished mushrooms can be displayed in a class "mushroom garden".



Closing

- Return to the “mystery bags” from the beginning of the lesson. Based on the previous observations and what they’ve learned about mushrooms, ask students to classify the type of mushroom contained in each bag. After students make their guesses, reveal the contents of each “mystery bag”.
- As a class, tweet Mushrooms in Schools (@MushroomsK12) with information learned from today’s lesson and any questions that they have about mushrooms.
- Let students know that tomorrow they will be helping the cafeteria staff prepare a delicious mushroom recipe!

Additional Resources

Video: Fungi: Why Mushrooms are Awesome!

Video from SciShow Kids: What’s something that’s neither vegetable or meat, digests food on the outside of its body, glows in the dark, and can go on top of your pizza? The amazing mushroom!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch%3Fv=2fooP2ienR0>

Video: Tiger Mushroom Farm

When Te’Lario Watkins was 7 years old, he founded Tiger Mushroom Farms. The business quickly grew, and now his entire family is involved.

<https://www.pbs.org/video/columbus-neighborhoods-tiger-mushroom-farms/>

