

Fungi Fanatic

Online Collections Investigation

Grade Level	3rd-5th Grade
Activity Length	30-45 Minutes

Discover the world of mycology through the Natural History Museum of Utah's online collections. These collections provide unique access to field notes and research being done by NHMU scientists. Students have the opportunity to review and compare specimens just like researchers all over the world.

Using this lesson for Distance Learning Options:

1. Print off the packets either at school or at home.
2. Have students answer questions on another sheet of paper or in a notebook.
3. Have students fill in the PDF on a computer and use SketchPad for online drawings. Note: PDF will often open in browser where regular save function will not work. To save answers students will need to select the Print button and choose the "Save as PDF" option.

Using this lesson in the Classroom:

1. Use classroom computers or tablets for students to complete activity either individually or in small groups.
2. Project the specimen record and images for all students to study together.
3. Print off the specimen record and some pictures for students to study without technology.

Disciplinary Core Idea:

(LS2) Ecosystems

Science and Engineering Practices:

Analyze and Interpret Data

Cross Cutting Concepts:

Structure and Function

Systems and System Models

Questions? Contact us at fieldtrips@nhmu.utah.edu



Fungi Fanatic

Online Collections Investigation

Student Name: _____

The Natural History Museum of Utah provides information about our collections online for researchers all over the world to study. Today, you are one of those researchers!

Answer the questions on the following pages to dig into the world of mycology – fungi and mushrooms!

Visit the websites below by clicking on the links or copying and pasting the links into your internet browser.

Fungi #1 - Earthstar

<https://bit.ly/NHMUGeastrum>

Fungi #2 - Smoky Puffball

<https://bit.ly/NHMUCalvatia>



Fungi #1 - Earthstar

Scientific Name of Fungi (Taxon): _____

Habitat: _____

Use the space below to make some observations about this fungi. What inferences can you make based on your observations?

<div>Observations</div> <div>What do you notice about this fungi? What colors, structures, or textures do you notice?</div>	<div>Inferences</div> <div>An inference is your best guess. What can you guess about this fungi using your observations?</div>

Field Journal - Earthstar

Researchers keep detailed field journals about the specimens they collect. Ues the spaces below to sketch the mushroom and its habitat. Remember, pay attention to details! Use the box below or a piece of paper. Make sure to label the parts of your drawing just like researchers do!

In their field journals researchers also keep details about where the specimen was found and what the day was like. Imagine you are out collecting this mushroom. What is your day like? What does the area around you look like?

Fungi #2 - Smoky Puffball

Scientific Name of Fungi (Taxon): _____

Habitat: _____

Use the space below to make some observations about this fungi. What inferences can you make based on your observations?

Observations	Inferences
What do you notice about this fungi? What colors, structures, or textures do you notice?	An inference is your best guess. What can you guess about this fungi using your observations?

Field Journal - Smoky Puffball

Researchers keep detailed field journals about the specimens they collect. Ues the spaces below to sketch the mushroom and its habitat. Remember, pay attention to details! Use the box below or a piece of paper. Make sure to label the parts of your drawing just like researchers do!

In their field journals researchers also keep details about where the specimen was found and what the day was like. Imagine you are out collecting this mushroom. What is your day like? What does the area around you look like?

Compare and Contrast

Use the Venn Diagram below to compare and contrast the two fungi specimens. How are they similar? How are they different?

Unique to Earthstar

Both

Unique to Smoky Puffball

