

# Fungi Fanatic

## Online Collections Investigation

Grade Level	6th-8th 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. Choose specimens and then project the records 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](mailto:fieldtrips@nhmu.utah.edu)**



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## 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 website below by clicking on the link or copying and pasting the link into your internet browser: <https://bit.ly/NHMUFungi>

Pick one of the counties to study on the bottom of the page (click on the number next to the county name to open all of the records for that county).

Choose two different examples of fungi to study. Make sure to pick ones that have pictures! Click on “Full Record Details” to learn more about your specimen and answer the questions.



# Fungi #1

Name of Fungi: \_\_\_\_\_

Habitat: \_\_\_\_\_

What are possible ecosystem interactions for this fungi? How might animals or plants interact with this fungi in this habitat? What might happen to the ecosystem if this fungi were to disappear?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

Observations	Inferences

# Field Journal - Fungi #1

Researchers keep detailed field journals about the specimens they collect. Use the spaces below to sketch three different images of your chosen fungi. Make sure to label the pieces of your fungi. Use the internet to research the parts of a mushroom if you need a review! Remember, artistic skill is not a necessary component of a scientist - just a keen eye for details! Use the boxes or a piece of paper.



← Sketch the fungi you are studying



ZOOM IN! Sketch just one piece of the fungi you are studying - as if you are looking through a magnifying glass.



ZOOM OUT! Sketch the fungi you are studying in its habitat.



# Fungi #2

Name of Fungi: \_\_\_\_\_

Habitat: \_\_\_\_\_

What are possible ecosystem interactions for this fungi? How might animals or plants interact with this fungi in this habitat? What might happen to the ecosystem if this fungi were to disappear?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

Observations	Inferences

## Field Journal - Fungi #2

Researchers keep detailed field journals about the specimens they collect. Use the spaces below to sketch three different images of your chosen fungi. Make sure to label the pieces of your fungi. Use the internet to research the parts of a mushroom if you need a review! Remember, artistic skill is not a necessary component of a scientist - just a keen eye for details! Use the boxes or a piece of paper.



Sketch the fungi you are studying



ZOOM IN! Sketch just one piece of the fungi you are studying in greater detail - as if you are looking through a magnifying glass.



ZOOM OUT! Sketch the fungi you are studying in its habitat.

# Compare and Contrast

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

