

Lesson 2: Classifying Mushrooms

Enduring Understanding:

- Mushrooms are good and good for me!

Lesson Objectives

- Students will use the five senses to describe the characteristics and attributes of different mushrooms.
- Students will learn the names of four different kinds of mushrooms.
- Students will build a clay model of a mushroom.

New Vocabulary

- Cap
- Gills
- Stem
- Fungi

Materials

- 2 of each of the following varieties of fresh mushroom (Choose 2 of each variety that are similar in shape and size. If you have a large class, we suggest using more mushrooms.):
 1. White Button
 2. Crimini/Portobello
 3. Shiitake
 4. Oyster
- Modeling Clay or Playdough
- 4 Paper bags
- Prepared prior to class: Three construction paper flags (slip of construction paper taped to a toothpick) for each child with the following labels: gills, stem, cap
- Lesson 2 PowerPoint presentation



Activity Session

Opening: Mystery Bag Activity

- Use PowerPoint Lesson 2: “Name that Mushroom” to guide students through the lesson. (If no projector is available, print slides and show them to students during the lesson).
- Remind students that yesterday we learned about how mushrooms are grown and how they get from the farm to our tables. We also talked about why mushrooms are good for our bodies (they provide vitamins and minerals) and for the planet (they don’t need as much energy and water to grow as other foods).
- Explain that today we will be learning about 4 different types of mushrooms.
- (Prior to class) Place the four different types of mushrooms in four different boxes or bags. This can either be a shoebox or a brown paper bag. The most important thing is that students cannot see into the box or the bag.

Each box/bag should contain one of the following types of mushrooms:

1. White Button
 2. Crimini/Portobello
 3. Shiitake
 4. Oyster
- Have students volunteer to reach into the box or bag and feel the contents without looking inside. If students are afraid, reach into the bag with them. Direct students to describe what they feel in as much detail as possible and record their descriptions on chart paper.
 - Ask prompting questions about the size, shape, texture, etc. of the mushroom.
 - Once the class has recorded their observations of the contents of each box, tell students that we will try to guess the type of mushroom contained in each box at the end of the lesson.

Part 1: K-W-L Chart

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.



Part 2: Mushroom Demonstration: Types and Parts

- Show the children one of each variety of mushroom, review what each is called and where they grow.
 1. Shiitake and Oyster mushrooms grow on logs
 2. White and Crimini (and Portobello) mushrooms grow in soil
- Explain and point out the different parts of the mushroom (cap, gills, stem).
- Describe the mushrooms using some of the description words the children named earlier when feeling in the mystery bags.
- Pass the mushroom around. Let the children touch and smell them and describe what they smell and feel.
- Have children compare the mushrooms and identify the ways in which the different types of mushrooms are similar and the ways in which they are different.
- Tell children that these mushrooms also taste different too! Some are good for eating in salads, others are great added to gravy, and others are delicious in foods like quesadillas. Next class we will get to try one of these mushrooms in a recipe!
- Read the descriptions they gave earlier for each mushroom and have them guess which variety of mushroom is in which bag.
- Reveal the mystery mushrooms and have the children match them with the mushrooms from the demonstration.

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

- As a class, Tweet the Mushroom Council with information learned from today's lesson and any questions that they have about mushrooms along with a photo of their class mushroom garden.
- Remind students that tomorrow they will be helping the kitchen 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 and 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/>

