Science

FUNGI

What are fungi?
Fungi are plantlike living things that DO NOT contain chlorophyll. They need moisture and warmth to grow. Most fungi have one cell (**unicellular**), but mushrooms have many cells (**multicellular**).

How are fungi and plants similar and different?
Fungi do not move from place to place like plants nor can fungi make its own food. To get energy, fungi must take in food from the environment. Plants grow from seeds, but fungi grow from **spores**.

Both fungi and plants can be eaten and they both grow from the ground.

TYPES OF FUNGI

Four types of common fungi are **mushrooms**, **mold**, **mildew** and **yeast**.

1) Mushrooms

- Mushrooms grow from the ground, on fallen logs and on live trees. Mushrooms growing on live trees are **parasites**.
- A parasite is an organism that lives on or in another organism (host). It draws its nourishment from the host and can cause harm or even death
- Mushrooms growing on fallen logs act as **decomposers**.
- Decomposers break down dead or decaying matter and return them to the soil.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

2) Mold

- Mold grows on bread, fruit, or in any damp, warm area. The mold that grows on oranges is used to produce the antibiotic called **penicillin**.

3) Mildew

- Mildew grows on damp cloth, leather or on plants.
- Mildew growing on leaves can damage the plant.

4) Yeast

- Yeast is used to make bread rise. When the yeast uses sugar, carbon dioxide gas is formed. The carbon dioxide makes bread rise.

.

HELPFUL AND HARMFUL FUNGI

Fungi can be both harmful and helpful. Helpful fungi break down decaying matter (mushroom). Many products are made with fungi including medicine. Fungi help to give cheese its flavor, colour and texture.

Fungi can be harmful because it can cause sickness and death. Some types of fungi cause human diseases that affect the skin. Such diseases include **ringworm**, **shifting clouds** and **athlete's foot** which grows between the toes.

LIVEWORKSHEETS