

1/29/23

How Much Do You Know About...

Estimated play time: Approximately 15 minutes

Number of players: Unlimited

Supplies needed: Tokens (for scorekeeping); Prizes (small) for winner(s)

Suitable for visually impaired players.

Overview:

In this game, we look at one subject in depth – it could be a person, place, event, or thing. This week, let's see how much you know about ... FUNGI.

Instructions:

1. This game can be played by individuals or teams.
2. Read the first question. Discussion is permitted among teammates. Prior to the start of the game, a method to signal when a team is ready to answer must be determined. Ringing bells and New Year's blowers are just two inexpensive noisemakers. Raised hands work, but the host must be vigilant to watch for whose hand went up first. The host always has the final say in any disputes.
3. After a team is recognized as the first to signal, they may give one answer. If the first answer is incorrect, the other teams may 'buzz' in and answer.
4. Keep score (10 points for each answer) after each question is answered correctly. Play until all questions have been asked and answered.

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INSTRUCTIONS: Just answer the questions to find out how much you know about today's subject ... FUNGI.

QUESTIONS

1. There are roughly 14,000 described species of mushrooms, but only a couple of dozen are commonly known and used in cooking. How many can you name?
2. The fungus family includes molds, mildews, mushrooms, and this essential bread-making ingredient.
3. Fungi are classified as neither plant nor animal, but they have some characteristics of each. Like plants, fungi often grow in soil; however, they lack roots, leaves, and this green pigment that gives most plants their color.
4. This first highly effective antibiotic drug, widely used since the 1940s to treat ailments such as strep throat and ear infections, was derived from a common type of fungus.
5. What common infection, often picked up from walking barefoot in a public place like a bathhouse or gym, is caused by mold-like fungi that grow on the top layer of the skin?
6. What word commonly refers to an inedible or poisonous mushroom? (Hint: It sounds like seating for an amphibian.)
7. Most famously associated with French and Italian haute cuisine, what type of fungi are similar to mushrooms, but grow entirely underground? (Hint: There's no fungi in the chocolate ones.)
8. Truffles are among the most expensive foods on earth, with some types selling for as much as \$1500 per ounce! One reason they're expensive is because they are so hard to find. Can you name one or both of the two animals that traditionally help truffle hunters find this buried gold?
9. Since its discovery in the United States in 1930, what fungal disease, reported to have arrived in a shipment of logs from the Netherlands, has killed millions of trees in North America?

10. What type of cheese, whose varieties include Stilton and Roquefort, is deliberately injected with mold fungus during the cheesemaking process to create a pungent taste and smell?
11. What veined Italian blue cheese is named after the town in which it was first produced in AD 879?
12. In 1980, a volcanic eruption in Washington state covered the surrounding area in a thick layer of ash, killing most living organisms on the mountain. But within a couple of years, fungi were among the first signs of life that returned. What was the name of this volcano?
13. The hippie culture of the 1960s rediscovered "magic mushrooms," which contain a powerful hallucinogen called psilocybin. Who was the Harvard professor who encouraged the recreational use of such mushrooms with the famous phrase, "Tune in, turn on, drop out"?
14. What fictional character ate one side of a mushroom and grew taller, then ate the other side of the mushroom to shrink?
15. Mushrooms have the ability to absorb heavy metals, including those that are radioactive. Today, scientists have found evidence that some wild mushrooms in northwestern Europe contain toxic chemicals dating from the 1986 meltdown of this nuclear power plant.

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ANSWERS

1. White button mushrooms, Crimino mushrooms, Portabello mushrooms, Shiitake mushrooms, Maitake mushrooms (Hen of the Wood), Oyster mushrooms, Enoki mushrooms, Beech mushrooms, King trumpet mushrooms, Black trumpet mushrooms, Chantarelle mushrooms, Hedgehog mushrooms, Morel mushrooms, Porcino mushrooms, Chicken of the woods mushrooms
(Other correct answers are possible.)
2. Yeast
3. Chlorophyll
4. Penicillin
5. Athlete's foot
6. Toadstool
7. Truffles
8. Dogs and pigs
9. Dutch Elm Disease
10. Blue cheese
11. Gorgonzola
12. Mt. St. Helens
13. Timothy Leary
14. Alice (in Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland*)
15. Chernobyl