Life Science Stories

Funguses

Story by Andrew Frinkle

Funguses are important living things. Funguses are not plants or animals. They are kind of in-between. Common funguses include molds, mushrooms, and toadstools.

Funguses are like plants for a few reasons. They don't walk or move. They have something like roots, called mycelium. Some funguses look like vegetables, too. You can eat some funguses, like mushrooms, but many of them can make you sick.

Funguses are like animals because they eat or consume their food. They usually live on dead things. They 'eat' dead plants or animals. They are nature's recyclers. They do not make their own food from sunlight like plants do. In fact, some mushrooms even grow in the dark.

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NAME:

Funguses

1. Funguses are not plants or _____ .

(A) mushrooms (B) toadstools (C) animals (D) molds

2. Which of these is NOT an example of a fungus?

(A) mold (B) mushroom (C) toadstool (D) cookie

3. Funguses are like nature's what?

(A) builders (B) firefighters (C) doctors (D) recyclers

4. DEFINITION: another word for eating

(A) mycelium (B) roots (C) cookie (D) consume

5. Mushrooms have a kind of roots called mycelium.

(A) True (B) False