

UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD OF FUNGI

Fungi (and the mushrooms that fungi produce) have some unusual characteristics and behaviors. Review the resources below to become more familiar with the Fungi Kingdom.

How are fungi different from plants or animals? What unique roles do they play in ecosystems? What are some unusual mushroom characteristics or behaviors?

Do you also see similarities between the fungus, plant, and animal kingdoms?

Willie Crosby, Fungi Ally,

Learn About the Kingdom Fungi & Characteristics of a Fungus

<https://fungially.com/kingdom-fungi-characteristics/>

Cornell University, *Cornell Mushroom Blog*

<http://blog.mycology.cornell.edu/>



Extender Activity:

Do you remember how to use the phyloT tool to make a phylogenetic tree online? Let's try making a new phylogenetic tree:

<https://phylot.biobyte.de/>

In the *Search Taxonomy* box, enter:

- "Fungi" (the kingdom of life that includes all fungus, including the mushroom-producing fungi with which we're most familiar)
- "Homo sapiens" (the scientific name for humans)
- The scientific name for any plant of your choice.

After each entry, you'll see an ID number for that entry appear inside the *Tree Elements* box. Once you make the three entries, click on the *Visualize in iTOL* button.

Looking at the tree, which forms of life are most closely related? Does this result surprise you?

