**ACTIVITY: Fungi quiz**

**Activity idea**

In this activity, students can test their knowledge of fungi online or in a paper-based quiz. The quiz can be used as an introductory tool to gauge students’ prior knowledge, as a summative assessment or as an engaging treasure hunt to introduce students to some of the different features, parts and uses of fungi.

By the end of this activity, students should be able to:

* answer specific questions about fungi
* check or revise their answers using related web resources
* identify some of New Zealand’s fungi and where they grow.

# For teachers

Fungi are almost everywhere – in the air you breathe, in lots of the food you eat, in the soil you walk on, in the plants around you, in a stream’s foam bubbles and even on and inside you.

As neither plants nor animals, fungi as a topic can provide opportunities for classroom discussion on the characteristics of living things and learning around classification.

Students can complete the [online quiz](http://www.sciencelearn.org.nz/embeds/109-fungi-quiz) or the [paper-based quiz](#_For_students). The quiz covers general and specific questions about fungi in New Zealand.

The following resources provide background information about fungi in general and New Zealand fungi. Students can use the resources to check their answers, revise incorrect answers or extend their knowledge.

***General fungal resources from a Māori world view***

[All about fungi](https://www.sciencelearn.org.nz/resources/590-all-about-fungi)

[Fungal life cycles – spores and more](https://www.sciencelearn.org.nz/resources/2664-fungal-life-cycles-spores-and-more)

[Fungi – the good, the bad and the ugly](https://www.sciencelearn.org.nz/resources/2666-fungi-the-good-the-bad-and-the-ugly)

***Other generalised fungal resources***

[Making a case for the 5th kingdom](https://www.sciencelearn.org.nz/resources/1439-making-a-case-for-the-5th-kingdom)

[Conserving New Zealand’s fungi](https://www.sciencelearn.org.nz/resources/1442-conserving-new-zealand-s-fungi)

***Quiz answers***

* + - 1. A
      2. B
      3. A
      4. C
      5. B
      6. A
      7. B
      8. A
      9. B
      10. C
      11. B
      12. A
      13. C
      14. B
      15. A

# For students

Circle the answer you think is correct.

1. What are two reasons why most fungi are difficult to see?
2. Some are microscopically small, and others are hidden within their habitats.
3. They are shy organisms, and people do not know what they’re looking for
4. They are usually found by smell, not sight.

1. What is one major biological function carried out by plants but not fungi?
2. The ability to grow roots and creepers.
3. The ability to make their own food using the Sun’s rays and carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.
4. The ability to reproduce.
5. What is one major feature of animals not shared by fungi?
6. The ability to move around to find their food.
7. The need for oxygen.
8. The need for food.
9. What are the names of the three main types of structures formed by fungi?
10. Cap, egg and gills.
11. Flowers, seeds and leaves.
12. Hyphae, fruitbodies and spores.
13. How do fungi find their food?
14. By chemical detection.
15. By growing hyphae or by releasing spores to be carried somewhere else.
16. From supermarket catalogues.
17. How can we see fungal spores?
18. By using a microscope or by making a spore print.
19. By using a flashlight.
20. By using binoculars.
21. Why is the cap of the common mushroom shaped as it is?
22. To protect the food source under it.
23. So raindrops flow off it, to shelter the spores underneath from getting wet.
24. To attract insects it feeds on.
25. What kind of place makes a good home for fungi?
26. A moist place where there is food available.
27. The bedroom of a messy person.
28. Soil.
29. Which season is best for seeing native fungi growing vigorously on the forest floor?
30. Spring.
31. Autumn.
32. Summer.
33. Fungi often grow in and around the roots of what three types of tree?
34. Kauri, tōtara and kahikatea.
35. Pōhutukawa, feijoa and eucalyptus.
36. Mānuka, kānuka and beech.
37. How do fungi help trees by growing within and around their roots?
38. They help to keep tree roots warm during cold months by insulating them.
39. By capturing water and minerals from the soil.
40. By providing additional food for the trees.
41. What is one kind of biological relationship between fungi, plants and animals in the forest?
42. Food webs.
43. Symbiosis.
44. Food chain.
45. Why is yeast used in making bread?
46. Because it adds a delicious flavour.
47. To stop the bread going stale.
48. To leaven the bread so it is light and soft.
49. What is the purpose of biosecurity?
50. To provide jobs for beagles and other dogs.
51. To provide a barrier so no harmful animals, plants, fungi or micro-organisms enter Aotearoa.
52. To protect kūmara crops from *Sclerotinia*.
53. What is one horticultural problem caused by fungi in Aotearoa?
54. Damaging vegetable crops such as kūmara and potato.
55. Vegetable caterpillar disease.
56. Zebra chip disease from tomato/potato psyllid.