



Teacher Edition

AlphaWorld

Mushrooms and Toadstools

Written by
Keith Pigdon

Photography by
Bruce Fuhrer



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Developed by
Eleanor Curtain Publishing
Text: Kerrie Shanahan
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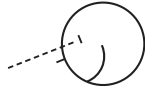
1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9
04 05 06

How to use this book



Before reading: Talkthrough

Talk through the book with the children. Encourage them to predict the text from the cover and the pictures, and to think about the information provided. Direct the children's attention to aspects of the text that may challenge them. Support the children as they deal with these challenges by asking the *Talkthrough* questions on each page.



During reading: Observe and support

Observe the children as they read and encourage them to monitor their own reading. Help the children to use reading strategies and cues to respond to reading challenges that arise in the text. Interruptions to the child's reading should be minimal and focused on a specific learning need.



After reading: A range of comprehension and response activities

To develop children's understanding of the text, select from the activities found on page 12 and the inside back cover. These whole text, sentence and word level activities reinforce the teaching focus of this book. Assessment ideas are provided to assist with further teaching plans.

Selected text features

- Contents page
- Question and answer format
- Fact files on each double page provide the reader with extra information
- Captions support photographs
- Scientific language is used: fungi, spores

Vocabulary

fungi, leaves, mushrooms, poisonous, soil, spores, supermarkets, threads, toadstools

Setting the context

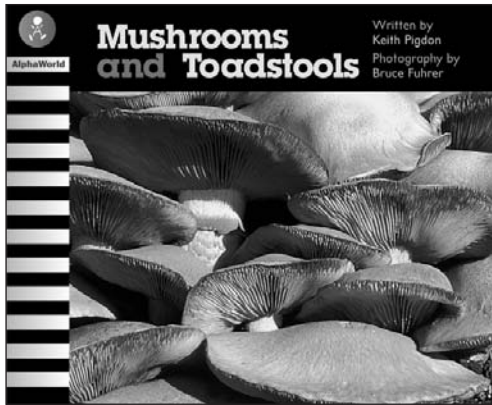
What do you already know about mushrooms and toadstools?

Record the children's ideas on a chart (K). Ask the children what they want to find out about mushrooms and toadstools. Record these ideas (W).

What we already know about mushrooms and toadstools (K)	What we want to find out about mushrooms and toadstools (W)	What we have learned about mushrooms and toadstools (L)

Background information

Mushrooms and toadstools belong to a group of living things called fungi. Fungi are not plants: they are very different. Unlike plants, fungi cannot make their own food. Fungi get their food from living or dead plants. Some fungi help the living plants they use for food, but other fungi are harmful.

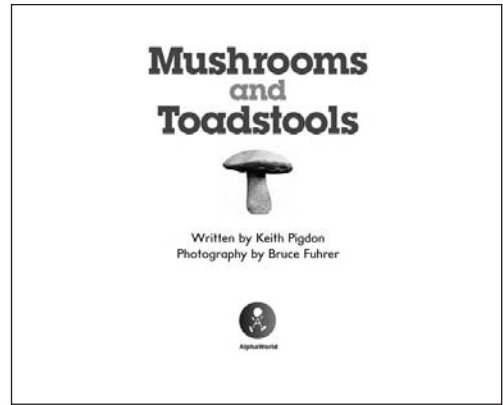


Front cover

Show the front cover.

What sort of book do you think this is?

What sort of information do you think you will learn from this book?



Title page

Turn to the title page.

What is this book called?

What other information is supplied on the title page?



Talkthrough

Turn to the contents page.

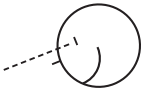
This is the contents page. It helps you to choose what part of the book you would like to read.

Do we need to read this book from start to finish? Why or why not?

Turn to pages 4–5

Mushrooms and toadstools are not plants. They are fungi.

Do you know if there are any differences between mushrooms and toadstools?



Observe and support

Can the children use their knowledge of phonics to help decode new words, like ‘fungi’?

How did you know that word was ‘fungi’?

What did you check?

What did you think about?

If any of the children are having difficulty, you might prompt them by saying:

Look at the first letter. What sound does it make?

Look at the ending of the word. What sound do these letters make?

What might the word be?



Contents

What are mushrooms and toadstools? 4
 How do mushrooms and toadstools feed? 6
 How do mushrooms and toadstools grow? 8
 How do mushrooms and toadstools help plants? 10
 Mushrooms and toadstools grow on dead plants 12
 Mushrooms and toadstools grow on living plants 14
 Can you eat mushrooms? 16
 Safe mushrooms 16
 Poisonous mushrooms 18
 Conclusion 20

Fact file



Most of the growing fungus is hidden under the ground.

What are mushrooms and toadstools?

Mushrooms and toadstools are both fungi. They are not plants.

They both have caps and stalks. They look very much the same.



This fungus is a red bolete. It grows with trees in open forests.



Talkthrough

Turn to pages 6–7

The heading on this page is a question. How do we know it is a question?

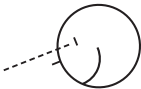
Where can we find information on this page?

Mushrooms and toadstools don't have roots. They have threads that they use to gather food.

Where do mushrooms and toadstools get their food?

Turn to pages 8–9

Mushrooms and toadstools don't have seeds. They grow from tiny spores. How do you think the spores get to new places?



Observe and support

Are the children able to self-correct?

I noticed that you corrected yourself when you made a mistake. How did you know you had read the wrong word? What did you check?

If the children do not correct a miscue, you could say:

Did that make sense? Did it sound right? Try it again to see what might make sense there.

Fact file



Fungi cannot make their own food like plants do.

How do mushrooms and toadstools feed?

Mushrooms and toadstools get their food from the plants they grow on. Mushrooms and toadstools do not have roots. They have threads that grow under the ground. Mushrooms and toadstools feed through these threads.

Fungi feed on plants that are living or plants that are dead.



These threads are used by a large mushroom to gather food.

Fact file



All fungi need water to grow but only some need sunlight.

How do mushrooms and toadstools grow?

Mushrooms and toadstools grow from tiny spores. They do not grow from seeds. Mushrooms and toadstools make millions of spores.

The wind blows the spores to new places.



This orange-peel fungus has a cloud of spores.



Talkthrough

Turn to pages 10–11

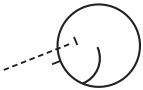
Some mushrooms and toadstools help to make the soil healthy.

How does this help plants?

This fungus is called an earth star. Why might it be called this?

Turn to pages 12–13

These mushrooms grow on dead plants. They help the dead plants to rot and become part of the soil. How does this help living plants?



Observe and support

Do the children read the text fluently?

You read that very clearly. I could understand all of the information easily.

Point out the use of questions for some of the headings.

What does a question mark tell you about how to read the sentence?

Fact file



The top of this puff ball fungus splits to make a star shape.

How do mushrooms and toadstools help plants?

Some mushrooms and toadstools help to keep the soil healthy so that plants can grow.

Mushrooms and toadstools make the soil richer. This rich soil becomes food for plants.



16



This puff ball is called an earth-star.

Fact file



Big gym is a large fungus that grows on dead tree stumps.

Mushrooms and toadstools grow on dead plants

Some mushrooms and toadstools grow on dead plants and tree stumps. They help the dead plants and tree stumps to rot quickly. The dead plants become part of the soil. They become food for living plants.



17



Big gym is one of the larger fungi.



Talkthrough

Turn to pages 14–15

Some mushrooms and toadstools grow on the roots of living plants. These mushrooms and toadstools help to rot fallen leaves. How can this help the plants?

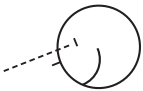
The caption tells us that these mushrooms are called fly mushrooms. Why might they be called this?

Turn to pages 16–17

This girl is buying mushrooms from a supermarket. Why is it important to eat only mushrooms that you buy in a shop?

Do you and your family eat mushrooms?

How are you sure that they are not poisonous?



Observe and support

Can the children use context to understand the meaning of new vocabulary such as ‘poisonous’?

What does ‘poisonous’ mean?

How did you know this?

Fact file



Fly mushrooms grow on oaks, chestnuts, pines and birches.

Mushrooms and toadstools grow on living plants

Some mushrooms and toadstools grow on the roots of living plants. They get their food from the plants.

Mushrooms and toadstools also help the plants they grow on. They help rot the fallen leaves. The rotted leaves become food for the plants.



16

Fly mushrooms can be mixed with milk and used as a fly poison.



17

Fact file



Mushrooms are eaten in many different countries.

Can you eat mushrooms?

Many mushrooms are safe to eat, but other mushrooms are poisonous.

Safe mushrooms

Many people like to eat mushrooms. Mushrooms that are safe to eat are grown on farms. You can buy these mushrooms in shops and supermarkets.



18



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Talkthrough

Turn to pages 18–19

Poisonous mushrooms can make you sick if you eat them.

Why is it important never to pick mushrooms yourself?

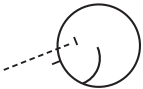
This photo is an example of a poisonous fungus. It is called a purple coral.

Turn to page 20

Have you seen any of these mushrooms or toadstools before?

The text says that mushrooms and toadstools are fungi.

How are fungi different from plants?



Observe and support

Can the children understand inferences made in the text?

Should you pick mushrooms? Why or why not?

Where should you get mushrooms from if you are going to eat them?

Are mushrooms good for the environment? What do they do to help the environment?

Fact file



The only mushrooms that are safe to eat are the ones that you buy.

Poisonous mushrooms

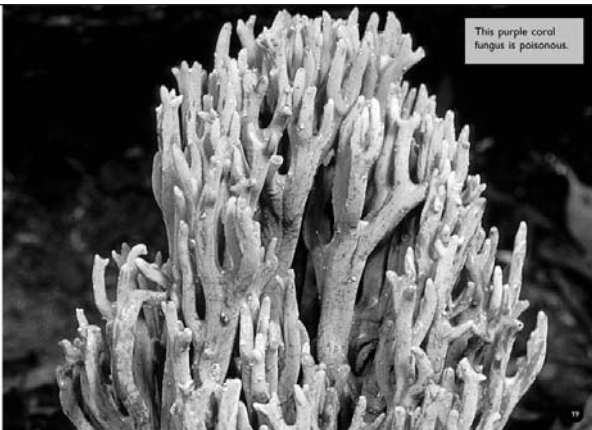
Poisonous mushrooms can make you sick if you eat them.

Some poisonous mushrooms look almost the same as mushrooms you can eat. Never pick mushrooms yourself.



16

This purple coral fungus is poisonous.



17



Conclusion

Mushrooms and toadstools are both fungi.
They need plants to get their food.
Many fungi also help plants to grow.

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Mushrooms and Toadstools



After reading

Being a meaning maker

Encourage the children to support their answers to these questions with evidence from the book:

Are mushrooms and toadstools plants?

What are they?

Where do mushrooms and toadstools grow?

What do mushrooms and toadstools feed on?

How do mushrooms and toadstools help plants?

How do you know if a mushroom is safe to eat?

Why should you eat only mushrooms that you buy from a shop or supermarket?

What might happen if you eat a poisonous mushroom?

Being a code breaker

Explore the following language features:

- Punctuation: capital letters, commas, full stops, question marks
- Scientific words: fungi, mushrooms, spores, toadstools

- Hearing sounds: ask the children to listen for words that have the /l/ sound in them – blows, living, millions, places, plants, toadstools
- Word awareness: compound words – mushrooms, sunlight, supermarkets, toadstools, yourself

Being a text user

What kind of text is this: narrative or information?

Why would you read this book: for enjoyment or to gain information or to find out how to do something?

How has the author presented the information in this book?


Being a text critic


What would the author need to know before writing this book?


Is all of the information true? How could you check?

Did the author have a message in this book?

Responding to text

 The children could draw a diagram of a mushroom or a toadstool. Encourage them to use labels and/or captions to show what they now know about mushrooms and toadstools.

 The children could make a warning poster to let people know about mushrooms that are poisonous.

 The children could list compound words from the book. They could add compound words to the list by looking in other books.

Writing links


Using the text as a model, write a report about a group of plants or animals. For example, you could use the headings: What are fish? What do fish look like? Where do fish live? How do fish grow? Discuss with the children the purpose of an information report: to classify or organise information. Invite the children to give you ideas for the report.

Revisit the chart made in the Setting the Context section. Add any new information to this chart (L) and correct any misconceptions. The children could then write their own list of facts about mushrooms and toadstools. Encourage the use of subject-specific words such as those used in the text.


Possible assessment focus

Can the children:

- explain the meaning of the scientific words used in the text?
- understand the extra information given in the fact files?
- read the captions for extra information?

 whole text activity

 sentence activity

 word activity

Mushrooms and Toadstools

Topic: Living Things

Curriculum link: Natural Science

Text type: Report/ Question and Answer

Reading level: 14

Word count: 285

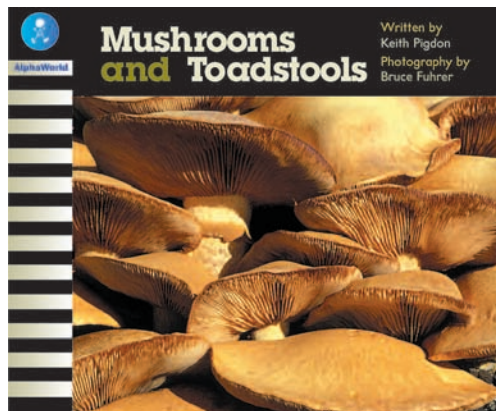
Vocabulary: fungi, leaves, mushrooms, poisonous, soil, spores, supermarkets, threads, toadstools

Possible literacy focus:

- Reading question and answer books.
- Understanding scientific language: fungi, spores.
- Using the fact files to gain extra information.
- Understanding the purpose of captions.

ESL possibilities:

- Share known information about mushrooms and toadstools before reading and compile a list of ideas.
- Understand that 'fungi' is sometimes substituted for 'mushrooms and toadstools' in the text.



Summary

This book is about mushrooms and toadstools. It explains how they feed and grow, and how they help plants.

AlphaWorld



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