Flora, Fauna, Fungi or Fiction?

OBJECTIVE
- To illustrate the differences between fungi, plants and animals

BACKGROUND INFORMATION
Fungi have long been mistaken for plants. It wasn’t until fairly recently that they were assigned to their own biological classification or kingdom. This activity is meant to draw awareness to some of the unique features of this group of organisms. Please refer to Fungi--The Hidden Kingdom on page 8 for additional background information.

TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS
1. Begin by drawing a simple chart on the board that has the titles Flora, Fauna, Fungi, Fiction and Other. Have the students brainstorm characteristics that match each heading. If anyone lists a characteristic that does not fit in the first three, place it under the “Fiction” or the “Other” heading.
2. Hand out copies of each page to pairs of students. Make sure groups have two different sheets.
3. Construct the Origami Quizmaster. If the class is not already familiar with this technique, refer to page 19.

HOW TO PLAY QUIZMASTER Q&A
Break the group of students into pairs. One person starts with a quizmaster closed on their fingers (Student A) and the other person starts by picking a picture of a fungus from on the outside (Student B). For example, Student B may choose “Morel”. Student A opens the “mouth” of the quizmaster and displays a number adjacent to the morel. In this case, the number displayed will be either 1 or 2. If 2 is shown, Student A opens the mouth in one direction and then again in the other direction to equal “2”. Student B then picks another number and Student A opens the flap to reveal the question and asks it to Student B. If Student B answers correctly, he/she gets another chance to be asked a question and the above steps are repeated. When Student B answers incorrectly, it is Student A’s turn to be asked a question and Student B manoeuvres the other quizmaster. The student who answers all their questions correctly first is the winner.

SOURCE
How to make origami diagrams was adapted from those at http://www.yasutomo.com/project/fortuneteller.html
Start with a square piece of paper lying flat on the desk with the PRINT SIDE DOWN. Fold the paper in half diagonally, both ways, corner to corner.

Again, fold all the corners into the centre.

Make sure the paper is still PRINT SIDE DOWN and fold up all corners so that the points meet in the middle.

Turn the paper over so that the four flaps are facing down.

Fold paper in half and unfold.

Slide thumbs and forefingers under the squares to move the Quizmaster back and forth.

Fold paper in half from top to bottom. Do not unfold.
**Bolete**
- I can live off of electricity
- Most of my body is found underground
- My cell walls are made of cellulose
- I am mainly green

**Coral Fungi**
- I reproduce using spores
- I am the Master Recycler
- I can move freely about in my environment
- I get nourishment by absorbing my food

**Bird’s Nest Fungi**
- Fiction
- Flora
- Fauna

**Polypore**
- Flora
- Fauna

**THE Fungus FILES**
The Fungus Files

Morel

I am the largest organism on earth

Jelly Fungi

I can make my own food using energy from the sun

Agaric

I can be a herbivore, carnivore or omnivore

Earth Tongues

My cell walls are made of chitin—the hardest substance on earth

I have mastered the art of time travel

Fungi

I reproduce using seeds