

Mars mission quiz – teacher's answer sheet

1. True or false: fungi are plants.

- ☐ true
- ✓ **false**

Fungi are neither plants or animals – they have their own group.

2. Approximately how many species of fungi are there in the world?

- ✓ **3.8 million**
- ☐ 380
- ☐ 3800

The world is full of fungi. They can live in the air, soil, water and even on plants and animals.

3. Some fungi produce mushrooms. Which part of the fungus are they?

- ✓ **fruiting body**
- ☐ root

Mushrooms are the fruiting body of some fungi.

4. Fungi reproduce by making...

- ☐ seeds
- ✓ **spores**

Fungi do not make seeds, but spores, which are bundles of cells that disperse and grow into new fungi.

5. Fungi are used to make lots of useful products including...

- ✓ **washing detergent**
- ✓ **paper**
- ☐ mobile phones
- ✓ **lego**
- ☐ toasters

Some fungi are used to make common products you may have in your home.

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6. **True or false:** you can eat some varieties of fungi but others are toxic.

☒ **true**

☐ false

At least 350 species of fungi can be eaten but many others are toxic and can cause death.

7. Some penicillium fungi are used to make an antibiotic medicine called...

☒ **penicillin**

☐ aspirin

☐ paracetamol

Some fungi contain useful chemicals that can be used to make medicine.

8. **True or false:** plants and animals can get fungal diseases.

☒ **true**

☐ false

Fungal diseases can spread quickly as spores are hard to detect and prevent.

9. Some fungi can be helpful to plants. What two things do they help them absorb from the soil?

☒ **water**

☐ sunlight

☐ air

☒ **nutrients**

Some fungi can grow on or near plants and help them absorb water and nutrients from the soil.

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10. **True or false:** the Cordyceps species of fungus can turn insects into zombies.

☒ true
☐ false

This fungus can force insect to move to a particular place (often high up a tree, or into water) so that when the fruiting body bursts out of the insect's body, the spores are scattered as far as possible.

11. Which of the following is the common mushroom that we eat?



☐



☐



☒

The Agaricus bisporus is the most commonly eaten mushroom across the world.

12. Which of the following is the Honey fungus that infects tree roots and can kill trees?



☒



☐



☐

The Armillaria sp. is also known as the Honey fungus. One Honey fungus is the largest living organism in the world.