

KS1 Heroes and villains

Instructions for pupils (and parents)

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Heroes and villains

You may have eaten a mushroom before, but did you know mushrooms are fungi?

Which of these can help us and which are potentially harmful? *Who are the fun-guys and who are the bad guys??*

Watch this video to find out your fungi challenge – but before you get going, you'll need to improve your fungi knowledge.

After the video, head to the next slide to take part in an activity.

Design and create a book cover or poster showing fungi “heroes and villains”.



Activity 1

Watch and learn

Did you know that acid
from some fungi is
used to make Lego®?

Watch the video to
learn more about fungi
and test your
knowledge.



Activity 2:

Harmful or useful?

You will need a piece of paper and a pen or pencil to take part in this activity

Number the paper down one side 1 – 10

Look at each of the following images and read the descriptions of each fungus to decide whether it is:

HARMFUL

OR

USEFUL

Then you'll need to write your answer next to the number on your paper

Top tip: read the description to find out what each fungus does

Harmful
OR
Useful

What do you think?

1



Common mushroom

We can eat this mushroom



2



Aspergillus flavus

This fungus is used to make Lego



How about these?

Harmful
OR
Useful

3



Baker's yeast

This fungus is used
to make bread



4



Candida albicans

This fungus can give
you Athlete's foot



Honey fungus
sounds pretty
tasty – what do
you think?

Harmful
OR
Useful

5



Image © Henk Monster

Honey fungus
This fungus can kill
trees



6



Image © Aaron Pomerantz

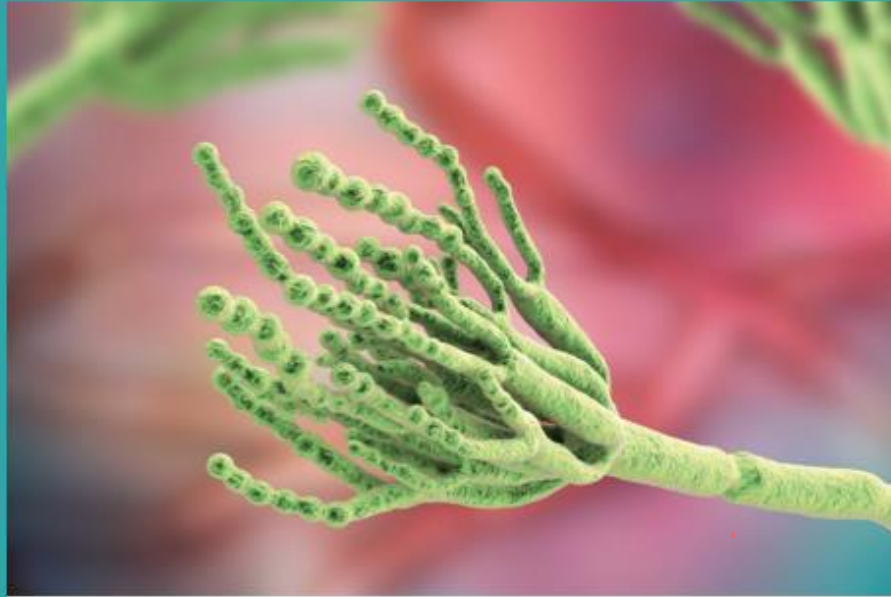
Cordyceps sp.
This fungus gets inside
insects, turns them into
zombies then kills them



What do you think
about these?

Harmful
OR
Useful

7



Penicillium sp.

We get penicillin from
these fungi, which we
use as a medicine



8



Deathcap

This mushroom is
poisonous



Answers: How many did you get right?

1




useful

Common mushroom
We can eat this mushroom

Endeavour
HERITAGE FUND Kew

2



useful

Aspergillus flavus
This fungus is used to make Lego

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3




useful

Baker's yeast
This fungus is used to make bread

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4



harmful

Candida albicans
This fungus can give you Athlete's foot

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5




harmful

Honey fungus
This fungus can kill trees

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6



harmful

Cordyceps sp.
This fungus gets inside insects, turns them into zombies then kills them

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useful

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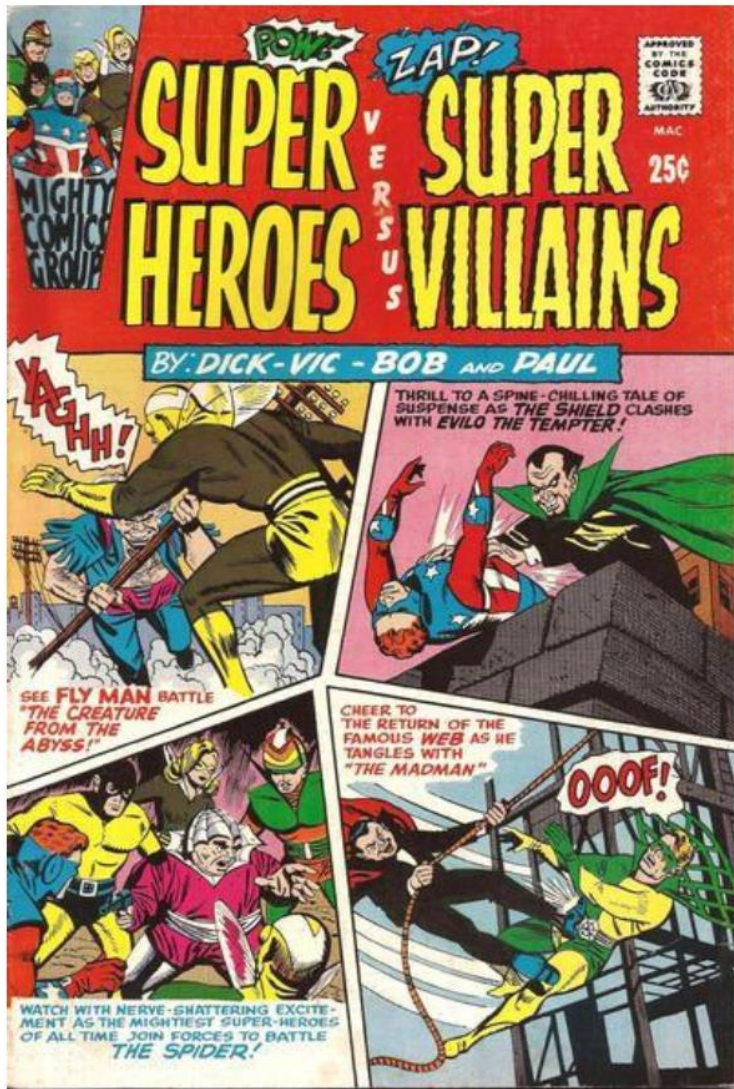
8



harmful

Deathcap
This mushroom is poisonous

Endeavour
HERITAGE FUND Kew



The challenge

Now that you have learned lots about fungi, you're ready to take on the challenge!

Design a comic book cover or poster with fungi as the heroes or the villains

Your poster can be hand drawn or made using your computer

By “good” we mean fungi that are helpful to plants and animals.

By “bad” we mean fungi that can harm plants and animals.

Top tips

- Use the internet to research the good and bad effects fungi have on us and the environment
- Make sure to name the fungus and what it can do
- Make it clear whether your chosen fungus is a hero or a villain – could you use different colours to show this?
- Use your imagination: you could think of a fun catchphrase for your hero and villain fungi to include in your design

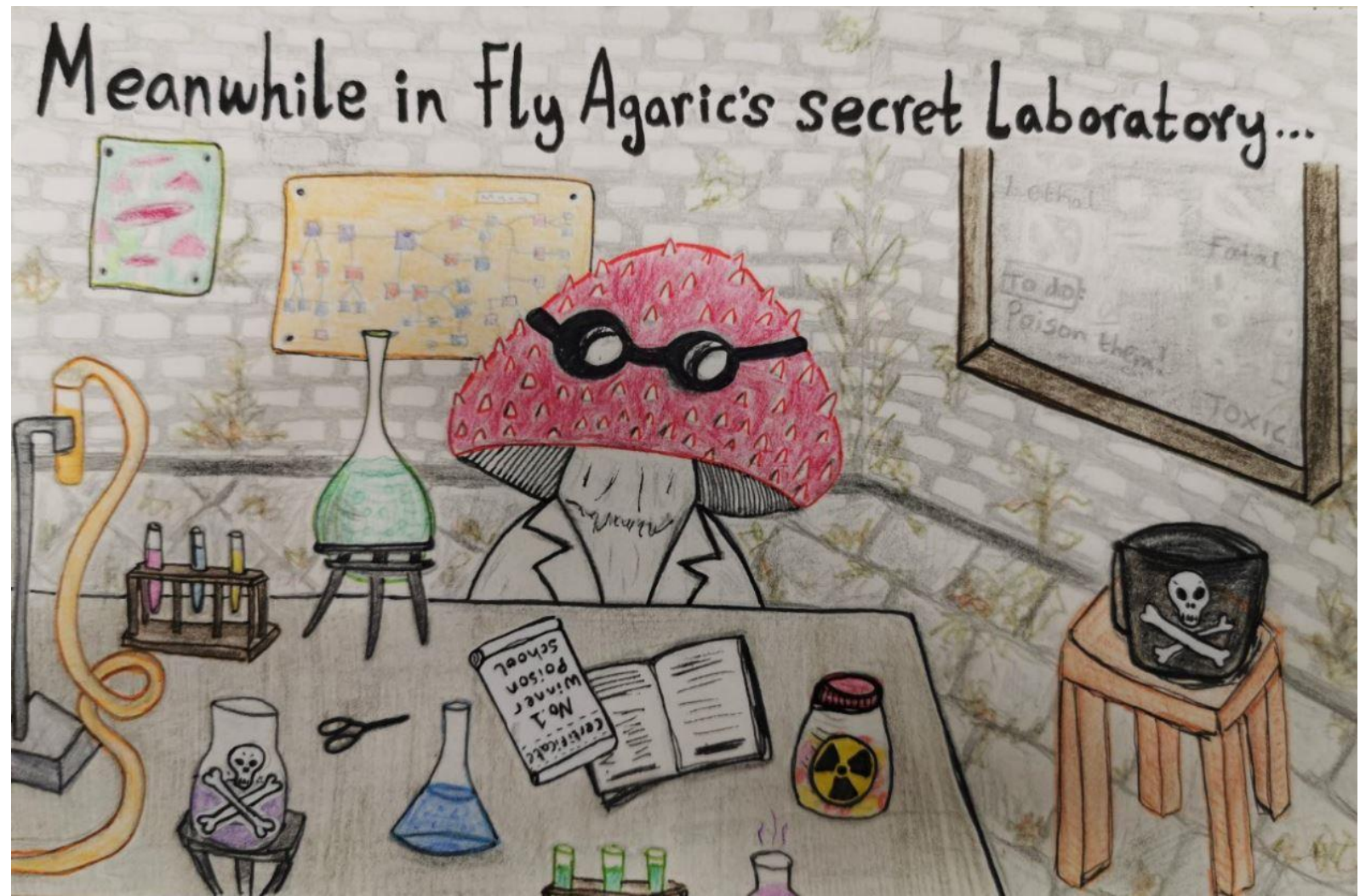


Image © Brickset

Here's an example
hero...



...and an example villain!



Useful links

Blog: 11 Fungi Facts

<https://www.kew.org/blogs/in-the-gardens/11-fun-gi-facts>

News story: Honey fungus largest living organism

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/earth/story/20141114-the-biggest-organism-in-the-world>

Video: Attack of the killer fungi

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XuKjBIBBAL8>

All done?

Well done for completing the challenge!

We hope you enjoyed learning about the fantastic world of fungi.

Contact your teacher to let them know you are ready to submit your work to them.