

AUGUST 6, 2017 - PARENT TAKE-IT-HOME HANDOUT- by Mary Collins at the Unitarian Church in Westport
For PRE-K & Wiggly children

Topic: Forest Mushrooms - *(Remind them to ask a grown up before eating anything outside)*



- **BOOK/VIDEO:** Video: How Does It Grow? (3:49 mins)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HLtGRHX0sLI> (tour a mushroom farm)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- **What did you learn or find interesting in the video?**
- **Do you know what mushrooms do in the forest?** They are called “decomposers” because they eat old logs and leaves and provide nutrients to the soil so sun loving plants and trees can grow. They are Nutrient recyclers. So even if something isn’t “beautiful” or showy like a flower or berry, it can be an important part of nature to notice and to protect habitat lands and forest spaces.

FAMILY FOLLOW UP ACTIVITY OPTIONS:

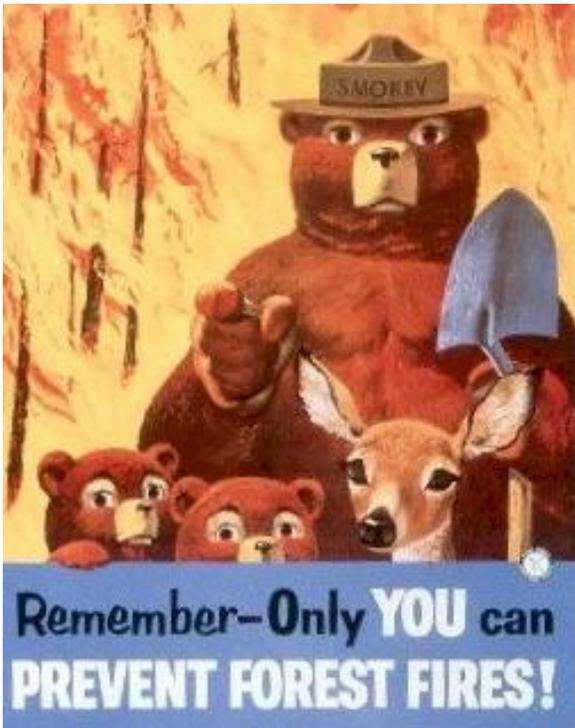
- **Mushroom Photo Hunt -** Take a walk in the woods and look for mushrooms and take photos. How many different kinds you can find (remember they like dark moist places).



- **Cook Mushrooms** and have your kids see how they large they are uncooked and how they shrink when all the water is cooked out.
- Or if you don’t eat them - point out the different kinds you see in the grocery store
- Look at pictures or read a book about the mushrooms and fungi (older elementary)

AUGUST 13, 2017- PARENT TAKE-IT-HOME HANDOUT- by Mary Collins at the Unitarian Church in Westport
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Topic: Forest Fire Prevention UU PRINCIPLE # 7 We care for planet earth



BOOK/VIDEO: The Smokey Bear Story by Ellen Morrison

Video: Smokey Bear Story English version 1
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9d4W1R8UJjU>

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (from the video):

- Can you name one or more of Smokey’s 5 rules?
- Do you know what to do if you see a fire?
- Do you know any benefits of fire to a forest ecosystem ?

SUNDAY ACTIVITY OPTIONS:

How fast can we Pass a bucket of water? “Fire” painting

FAMILY FOLLOW UP ACTIVITY OPTIONS:

- Create or practice an emergency plan – Agree o a safe meeting spot everyone will go to if there is a fire in your house.
- Review “Stop, drop, and roll” and not to hide from fire fighters.
- Check the smoke detectors together
- If you have campfire and show the proper way to put it out