

AUGUST 5, 2018

PARENT TAKE-IT-HOME HANDOUT

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



- 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