

Y6 Classification Microorganisms

KS2 Y6 Science · Follows the national curriculum

Name _____ Class _____ Date _____

1. Worked example

Why is a mushroom not a plant?

Step 1 · What do plants do?

Make their own food using sunlight; most are green

Step 2 · What does a mushroom do?

It isn't green and can't make food; it feeds on dead and rotting material

Step 3 · How does it reproduce?

By tiny spores, not seeds

Answer: A mushroom is a fungus. Fungi feed on other material instead of making their own food, so they are a separate group.

Check: Scientists once grouped fungi with plants. Better observations changed the classification.

2. Now try one with the steps

Give the observable features used to sort living things into broad groups.

Step 1 · Animals

Step 2 · Plants

Step 3 · Fungi

Step 4 · Micro-organisms

Answer:

3. Practice

Have a go at each one. There is space underneath to work it out.

1. What is a micro-organism?

2. Name TWO types of micro-organism.

3. What instrument do you need to see bacteria?

4. Is a mushroom a plant, an animal or a fungus?

5. Which broad group makes its own food using sunlight?

6. Give one helpful use of a micro-organism.

7. Give one harmful effect of a micro-organism.

8. For how many seconds should you wash your hands with soap?

9. Why do we keep food in the fridge?

10. Is a jellyfish a fish? Give a reason.

11. Why do micro-organisms in soil and compost matter?

12. Alexander Fleming found a medicine made by a mould in 1928. What was it called?

13. Give TWO observable features that tell you something is an animal, not a plant.

14. Why must mould experiments stay in sealed bags that are never opened?

4. Before you hand it in

Thinking all micro-organisms are 'germs' that make you ill.

Remember yeast in bread, bacteria in yoghurt, and decomposers in soil.

Calling mushrooms and toadstools plants.

Mushrooms belong to their own group: fungi.

Classifying by opinion: 'nice animals' and 'nasty animals'.

Use observable features: body covering, legs, how it feeds.

Thinking micro-organisms aren't alive because we can't see them.

Size has nothing to do with being alive.