

National Fungus Day Poster Competition 2014

Helpful and Harmful fungi!

Fungi range from the familiar mushrooms and toadstools to microscopic moulds and yeasts; their study is known as mycology. Many fungi have hugely beneficial effects, for example in the production of medicines and food. The purpose of this competition is to focus on fungi that have helped us or have caused harm. Here are some such common areas with specific examples of the materials or processes involved:

- Production of antibiotics, e.g. Penicillin
- Diseases of trees, e.g. ash, elm, oak, horse chestnut
- Diseases of insects, e.g. honey bee
- Production of other medicines, e.g. statins
- Beneficial relationships with plants e. IMG_0031 copy.JPG g. mycorrhizal fungi and lichens
- Diseases of humans and of other animals such as farm livestock, pets, fish, amphibians, e.g. skin, nails, lungs, skin, central nervous system, ergotism
- Nutrient re-cycling e.g. carbon cycle
- Fungi as food, e.g. QuornTM
- Food poisoning, e.g. aflatoxins and other mycotoxins, poisonous mushrooms

Object of the competition

Produce a poster to inform your classmates of the involvement of **one** fungus of your choice. The examples listed above may be used to guide you in choosing a specific event but you are also encouraged to research more widely.

The poster must be submitted on one side only of one A3 sheet (or two A4 sheets attached side-by-side) as hard copy and may be prepared by either hand or computer. The content of the poster must include the Latin name of your chosen fungus, e.g. *Amanita phalloides*, and a description of the problem caused and its consequences, e.g. economic, political, social. Refer also to the circumstances which led to the benefit or problem, the properties and features of the fungus which enable it to cause the effects you describe.

What makes a good poster?

An eye-catching design, simple layout and strong images attract attention. Give the poster a title which might be in the form of a headline in a newspaper or magazine article. Posters rely on their immediate visual impact; use a small amount of text, short and clear sentences and words that your classmates will understand. Use font sizes that can be read at a distance of 2-3 metres and don't use lots of different colours. Include diagrams, photographs (including your own, where possible) and tables of data.

Make sure you use your own words. Use only reputable web sites for your research because on-line information has not necessarily been checked for accuracy (for tips on using the internet see www.open.ac.uk/webguide). Please put on the back of your poster your name and school. Please send poster entries to: John Ingham BA (Hons), Master of the Lower School, Norwich Lower School Bishopgate, Norwich, NR1 4AA

Closing date: 28 September 2014