

## Language Original Lesson: Parts of a Mushroom Felt Puzzle



**Prerequisites:** Picture to picture matching, three-part cards, parts of.

### **Materials:**

- a set of labels defining the nomenclature of various parts of a mushroom which include the words “mycelia”, “stipe”, “ring”, “gills, and “cap” as well as naming the whole fruiting body of the organism “mushroom”.
- A felt puzzle of the various parts named to match the cards to, including felt background.
- A container, box, or tray.

### **Objectives:**

Developmental Aims:

Visual sense, preparation for reading and writing, preparation for skimming and scanning.

Practical aims: To put together and observe a representational puzzle of the fruiting body of the organism, focus on it part by part and then match the labels.

**Control of Error:**

The child's eye, only one label to match for each part of the mushroom.

**Points of Interest:**

The beauty of the puzzle, the texture of the felt between the fingers, the various novel shapes representing the different parts, the smallness of the pieces of mycelia, the contrasting colors of the brown and white on yellow, the writing on the cards, and the cards themselves with the contrasted backing paper in laminate.

**Language:**

"Cap", "gills", "stipe", "ring", "mycelia" and "mushroom".

**Age:**

4 and up.

**Presentation:**

1. Roll out a rug.
2. Find the "Parts of a mushroom" felt puzzle work on the shelf in either the language or cultural

section of the classroom.

3. Carry the work to the rug and place it in the bottom left hand corner.
4. Remove the lid of the box or unroll the felt containing the parts of the mushroom in the upper

right corner of the rug.

5. Take out all of the pieces and lay them on the work rug.



6. Take out all of the labels for the parts and lay them to the left of the puzzle and line them up.
7. Say "These are the parts of a mushroom." while pointing to the parts laid out on the rug.
8. Begin the assembly of them on the background felt, beginning with the cap. Say "This is the cap."

9. Remove the next piece and place it beneath the cap and say "These are the gills."
10. Remove the next piece and place it beneath the gills and say "This is the stipe."
11. Remove the next piece and place it on top of the stipe and say "This is the ring."
12. Remove the little pieces of the mycelia and assemble them in a kind of ring beneath the stipe

and say "These are the mycelia. They are very thin, like tree roots, but even thinner."

13. Now point to the cap and say "I am looking for a word that starts with "ccc" and let your finger

float to the label that reads "cap" to the left of the assembled puzzle.

14. Say, "cap." and place it on top of the cap.

15. Point to the gills and say "These are the gills. Gills start with 'gg', I am looking for a word that

starts with 'g' And pick up the 'gills' label and place it on the gills on the puzzle.

16. Point to the stipe and say "Stipe. I am looking for the word that starts with 'ssss.'" and pick up

the label for "stipe" and place it on the stipe and repeat the word.

17. Point to the ring and say "Ring. I am looking for a word that starts with the sound 'rrrrr.'" and pick up the label that reads "ring" and place it on the ring.

18. Point to the many threads of mycelia and say "Mycelia. I am looking for a word that starts with the sounds 'miiii.'" And pick up the word "mycelia" and place it in the center of the mycelia.

19. Then say "I am looking for the word for the whole mushroom. Oh! It looks like there's only one

label left. Let's say the first two sounds to make sure it's the right one!" and sound out "muh"

together and then say the word "Mushroom" and place it next to the puzzle on the felt.

20. Say "This is a mushroom! We did it!"

### **Variations:**

Other felt puzzles for parts of other organisms and objects.

### **Extensions:**

Make a list of the nomenclature labels, Draw and label the parts of the mushroom, write and illustrate a story about mushrooms and their parts, ask the child if they would like to show what they learned about the parts of a mushroom to another child.

### **Source:**

This work was inspired by a diagram I received in a packet entitled "Anatomy of an Amanita" at a talk given by Olga Tzogas of Smugtown Mushrooms in Rochester, NY called

Montessori Institute of Teacher Education 2015-2017  
Primary Instructor: Cathie Perolman  
By: Lily Sage

“Mycology 101” at a mycological conference last fall called “Mycosymbiotics”, organized by William Padilla-Brown.

