

词汇: *nature* 自然

Fungi play an important role in **ecosystems**, are a **source of** food, and **make** key **contributions** to the world of medicine. So, why do we know so little about them?

An estimated two million **fungal species** – more than 90% of all fungi – have yet to be described by science, according to Rebecca Morelle, science reporter for the BBC. In the UK alone, there are thought to be around 25,000 species of fungi – five or six times more than plants. Scientists are trying to find out more about this largely **unexplored** world, but it is challenging. Dr Martyn Ainsworth, a senior researcher from Royal **Botanic** Gardens, Kew, in London, says: 'We can grow a certain number in the **lab**, but there is **a whole host of** fungi that we cannot grow in the lab. This has held back a lot of research.'

The fact that we know so little about the world of fungi leads many of us to misunderstand them. 'A lot of people are afraid of **poisonous** mushrooms', says Dr Jassy Drakulic, a plant pathologist, 'but only a very small **proportion** of the thousands of species of fungi in the world can cause **disease**'. Most are harmless and often beneficial, called by some 'the hidden helpers of our environment'. Some fungi provide food and **shelter** for **wildlife**, help plants **absorb** water and **nutrients** and recycle **waste** and **dead matter**. Other types of fungi grow on the **roots** of trees and plants, forming a huge underground network that helps **nourish** trees. 'Fungi are really the behind-the-scenes team that are doing all the work', adds Dr Ainsworth.

So, next time you add mushrooms to your dinner, take a painkiller for a headache, or go for a walk through the woods, remember to thank the living things that made it all possible – fungi.

词汇表

fungi	(复数) 真菌, 真菌类植物
ecosystem	生态系统
source of	来源
make a contribution	作出贡献
fungus species	真菌种类
unexplored	未经研究的, 无人涉足的
botanic	植物(学)的
lab	实验室
a whole host of	许多, 大量
poisonous	有毒的
proportion	部分, 比例
disease	疾病
shelter	栖息地, 住所
wildlife	野生动植物
absorb	吸收
nutrient	养分, 营养物
waste	废物
dead matter	枯死物, 死亡有机物
root	根部
nourish	滋养

测验与练习

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. True or False? *There are more species of fungi than species of plants in the UK.*
2. What's one reason why research into fungi has been held back?
3. What proportion of fungi are poisonous?
4. Are the ways in which fungi benefit the environment obvious?
5. True or False? *Fungi only provide food for animals.*

2. 选择意思恰当的单词或词组来完成下列句子。

1. Until our brothers joined us, our nail salon was a _____ female business.

largely	unexplored	proportion	lab
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2. Large proportions of the world's oceans remain _____.

source of	largely	unexplored	wildlife
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3. A higher _____ of men are stay-at-home dads than in the past.

waste	poisonous	proportion	ecosystem
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4. Plants _____ carbon dioxide and produce oxygen.

absorb	nutrients	waste	nourish
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5. It suddenly started raining heavily, but luckily the trees provided some _____.

fungi	dead matter	shelter	absorb
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答案

1. 阅读课文并回答问题。

1. True or False? *There are more species of fungi than species of plants in the UK.*

True. In the UK, there are thought to be around five or six times more species of fungi than plants.

2. What's one reason why research into fungi has been held back?

According to Dr Martyn Ainsworth, many fungi can't be grown in a lab, so it's harder to study them.

3. What proportion of fungi are poisonous?

According to Dr Jassy Drakulic, only a very small proportion of the thousands of species of fungi in the world can cause disease.

4. Are the ways in which fungi benefit the environment obvious?

No. Fungi are referred to as 'the hidden helpers of our environment' and as 'the behind-the-scenes team that are doing all the work'.

5. True or False? *Fungi only provide food for animals.*

False. Fungi provide food for wildlife, but they also form a huge underground network that helps nourish trees.

2. 选择意思恰当的单词或词组来完成下列句子。

1. Until our brothers joined us, our nail salon was a **largely** female business.

2. Large proportions of the world's oceans remain **unexplored**.

3. A higher **proportion** of men are stay-at-home dads than in the past.

4. Plants **absorb** carbon dioxide and produce oxygen.

5. It suddenly started raining heavily, but luckily the trees provided some **shelter**.