

Name: _____

4th Grade

Snow Day Work

Day # 5

Name: _____

Fact or Opinion

A **fact** is something that is true or can be proven.

An **opinion** is your feelings or how someone else feels about a topic.

Write one fact and one opinion for each topic.

example: *music*

Fact: The violin is a stringed instrument.

Opinion: Jazz is the most beautiful type of music.



1. *candy*

Fact: _____

Opinion: _____

2. *tree*

Fact: _____

Opinion: _____

3. *monkey*

Fact: _____

Opinion: _____

Name: _____

What's the Deal with Mold?

By Lydia Lukidis

If you leave a sandwich outside for several days, it will start to look and smell funky. White fuzz begins to form, then it gets bigger and turns black. This is commonly known as mold. But what is that weird stuff anyway, and where does it come from?

Mold is a type of fungus. If you're wondering what fungus is, it's a living thing that's not a plant or animal. Mushrooms are another type of fungus. And imagine this, there are literally thousands of different kinds of mold.

There's everything from fuzzy white mold to dark blue spotted mold. Some molds have funny names like "Scopulariopsis" and "Aureobasidium."

Mold can grow in any part of the world, both inside or outside. Especially in wet areas. If you've ever wondered where it comes from, the answer may surprise you. Mold comes from the air. There are millions of little mold cells floating around in the air. These are called mold spores. If these spores land on a host, like a sandwich, they will "eat" the bread. The spores grow by feeding off the bread. They produce chemicals that break the bread down. Eventually, the sandwich rots.

Mold can be harmful at times. For example, some types of mold can form in the house. It is common for mold to form on drywall, or behind the walls. It can also grow on the ceiling or near the windows. Many molds are harmless. But others can release toxic fumes, like black mold. These are dangerous to smell. Also, some people have allergies and sensitivities. They can get very sick if they breathe in certain other types of mold.

As for the molds that grow on food, they're not good to eat. Think about it, would



you want to eat a sandwich that's been growing mold for a week? Probably not. If you did, you may get sick. The mold is breaking down the food to the point of being rotten.

But there are a few exceptions when it comes to eating mold. For example, blue cheese has patches of blue mold in it. But it's okay to eat it. And the flavor of some hard cheeses is better once the outer layer has mold on it. You don't eat the mold, but if you cut it off, you can eat the rest of the cheese.

Although you may find mold gross, it can also be useful. There is a special kind of mold that is used to make penicillin. Penicillin is a medicine. It's a common antibiotic used for many diseases like strep throat.

Mold is also part of our cycle of life. In a natural environment, rotting things return to the soil. That provides food for the other plants to grow. Every little thing, including mold, has a purpose in nature.

About the Author



Lydia Lukidis is a published children's author with a multi-disciplinary background that spans the fields of literature, theater, and puppetry.

Lydia's picture book, *Gerbs in the House: The Dilly Dally Bedtime Routine*, is now available. Find out if Mocha will ever get his silly son to sleep!

Lukidis, Lydia. *Gerbs in the House: The Dilly Dally Bedtime Routine* ISBN: 978-0-9917402-7-7

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What's the Deal with Mold?

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Match each vocabulary word from the article with the correct definition.

_____ 1. environment

a. dangerous; likely to cause harm

_____ 2. fungus

b. a type of medicine that kills harmful bacteria in the body

_____ 3. wondered

c. dirt or earth

_____ 4. harmful

d. the body's overreaction to pollen, fur, or other substances

_____ 5. soil

e. the surroundings in which an animal or plant lives

_____ 6. toxic

f. thought about or showed curiosity about something

_____ 7. allergies

g. decayed

_____ 8. antibiotic

h. make or create

_____ 9. rotten

i. a type of organism that falls into the same group as mold, mushrooms, or toadstools

_____ 10. produce

j. poisonous

Name: _____

Where I Live

House number: _____

Street: _____

Town or city: _____

County: _____

State: _____

Country: _____

Continent: _____

Hemispheres: _____ and _____

Planet: _____

Draw a picture of your home.

Draw a map of your state.

Name: _____

Multiplication Word Problems

Use multiplication to solve each problem. Use the empty space to the right of each problem to show your work. Write your answer on the blank line by each question.



Work Space

1. Justin, Carl, Ryan, and Will each have seventy-two alien trading cards. How many cards do they have in all?

Answer: _____

2. Jason has 9 quarters. How much money does he have?

Answer: _____

3. Carla earns \$13 an hour cleaning houses. How much will she earn if she works from 8:00am to 2:00pm?

Answer: _____

4. Harry buys 9 dozen eggs. How many eggs does he have in all?

Answer: _____

5. There are 93 calories in a small candy bar. How many calories are there in a half dozen small candy bars?

Answer: _____

6. Kyle's phone bill is \$45 per month. How much does he have to pay for half a year of phone service?

Answer: _____