

## **KS3 Mars mission** Introduction activity – card sort

This activity invites pupils to sort images of fungi into two categories: “harmful” or “useful”.

This activity can be done in groups by printing the resource and cutting the cards out. We recommend 3-6 pupils and one set of cards per group.

As a whole class approach, display the cards on the whiteboard.

Once each group has completed the activity, they can feed back how and why they sorted their cards to the rest of the class.



***Agaricus bisporus***  
Common mushroom

Endeavour  
HERITAGE FUND  
Kew  
Royal Botanic Gardens



***Aspergillus flavus***  
Itaconic acid from *Aspergillus* fungi  
is used to make Lego, synthetic  
rubber and plastic car parts

Endeavour  
HERITAGE FUND  
Kew  
Royal Botanic Gardens

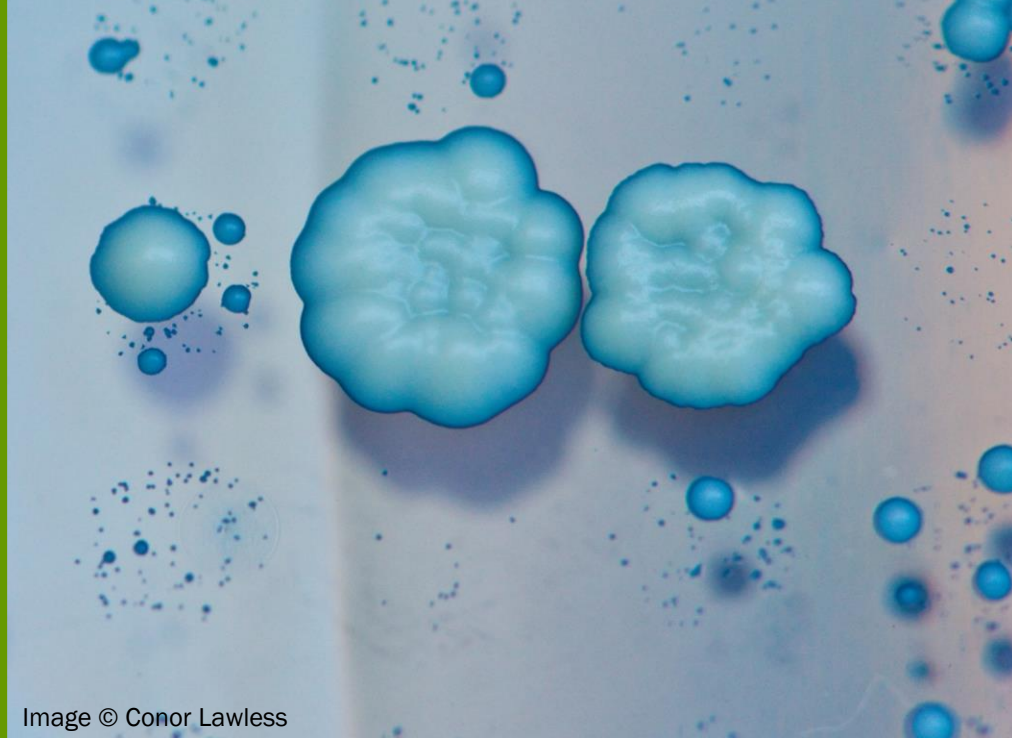


Image © Conor Lawless

*Saccharomyces cerevisiae*  
Brewer's yeast



*Candida albicans*  
Yeast found in the human body







***Mycorrhizal fungi***  
Helps plant roots to  
absorb water and  
nutrients



Image © Aaron Pomerantz

***Cordyceps sp.***  
Parasitic fungus that  
infects insects



*Fusarium  
venenatum*

Used to make Quorn™



*Amanita  
phalloides*  
Deathcap







*Penicillium* sp.  
Some *Penicillium* fungi  
produce penicillin



Image © V. Queloz/ETH Zurich, Switzerland

*Hymenoscyphus*  
*fraxineus*  
Causes “dieback” in ash  
trees

