

ACTIVITY 2: READ ABOUT THE NATIONAL MOREL FESTIVAL

This activity aims to provide students further understanding of the importance of fungi by spotlighting a festival that centers on a rare mushroom that people regard as a delicacy—the morel.

In this activity, students will use a **Think Pair Square Protocol** for discussing the two articles that they will read.

First, have students partner up and discuss whether they have ever eaten any type of mushroom before, what were the conditions, and how they liked it on a scale of 1-5 stars (like a restaurant rating). Proceed to distribute the article entitled: [Morel Season Begins in the Great Lakes](#) by Mary Ellen Geist from *Great Lakes Now* and allow time for students to individually read the article, and have them jot down three things they learned in the article.

Then, give students time after reading to discuss the article that they read with their partner. Have students share which three points they noted from the article and how those points connect to each other. The pair should come up with a statement to summarize all of their article takeaways.

Next, have two student pairs join up, standing near each other to form the four corners of a square, to discuss the article and what they talked about in their pairs.

Encourage them to come to a consensus about which point they found most important or interesting in the article.



Image Credit: Great Lakes Now

Last, have each group come up with a summary statement of the most important point from their discussion and ask for a volunteer in each group to share that most important point with the whole group.

As student groups share out their most important point, record their ideas on the board and have students copy the list of student ideas down into their notebooks.

After the shareout is complete, ask students to return to their groups and discuss one last question based on the article:

Based on the article, should you try eating morels, go hunting for them, or attend a festival about rare edible mushrooms?

After giving the groups some time to discuss this question, invite conversation from the entire class to see what consensus can be reached.

Further Learning: Want to know more about how people hunt for morels in Michigan? Visit michiganmorels.com to find out!