Mushrooms are a sign of happy soil! They help break down organic matter into nutrients that plants can use, hook up with plant roots to help them access water, and improve soil structure.

To explore these helpful fungi, create an edible mushroom log with different layers of yumminess!
MATERIALS

- Mini marshmallows
- Strawberries
- Toothpicks
- Sturdy bread (Ciabatta rolls, mini bguettes, etc)
- Nutella
- Graham crackers
- Oats
- Shredded coconut
- Green food coloring
- White frosting

STEPS

1. Cut the green top off of the strawberries. Stack a mini marshmallow (or two) and a strawberry to assemble the mushrooms.
2. Using the white frosting, add dots to the mushroom caps using a toothpick.
3. Cover the sturdy bread of your choice with a layer of nutella. (This will be your log)
4. Crush graham crackers to become the dirt layer.
5. Mix a drop or two of green food coloring with the shredded coconut to make a lush moss.
6. Use oats as a layer of dried leaves.
7. Begin assembling: stick mushrooms into log, arrange oats, shredded coconut, and graham crackers to create a delightful mushroom log.
8. Enjoy!
OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPANDED LEARNING

Next time you see a mushroom, remember to say thanks for all its hard work in helping create happy soil and supporting our plants and trees.

- Learn more about how important mushrooms are for our plants and soil [HERE](#)
- Watch a fun video about how awesome mushrooms are [HERE](#)
- Check out this fun infographic [HERE](#)
- Find some more great fungi information [HERE](#)
- Explore how fungi help trees talk [HERE](#)

Arboretum At Home Nature Adventures sponsored in part by EDISON INTERNATIONAL.