



Flipping Through Nature:
Card Decks to Guide Outdoor Exploration

Exploring Lichen

Observe these strange and
beautiful living things.

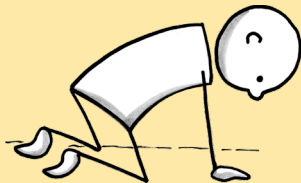


Lichen rhymes with hikin'!

1



**Look at lichen up close.
So cool!**



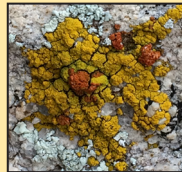
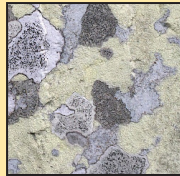
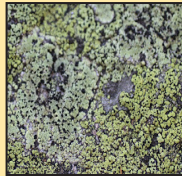
**Use a magnifier if
you have one.**

What do you notice?

Explore respectfully.

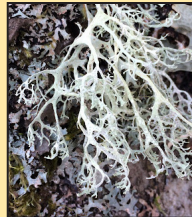


How many different colors of lichen can you find?



How many different shapes of lichen can you find?

What do they remind you of?



Can you find 3 different kinds of lichen?



Crusty: flat edges, scab-like, stuck to rock or wood, like paint.



Shrubby: beard-like, often hangs down like a small bush.



Leafy: lettuce-like, often attached to wood/rock in one spot.



Looking at lichen up close is kind of like snorkeling in a coral reef!



What surfaces can you find lichen growing on?

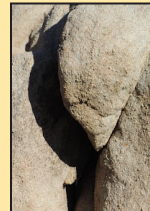
dead
wood?



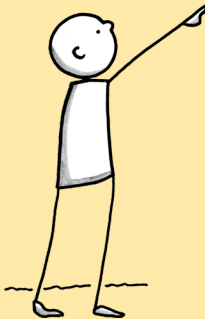
living
trees?



rocks?



others?



Why might lichen grow in some places and not in others?

Lichen is made of two living things: fungus and algae.

fungus
(shape)



+

algae
(makes food)



=

lichen



Freddi fungus and Andi Algae took a “lichen” to each other.

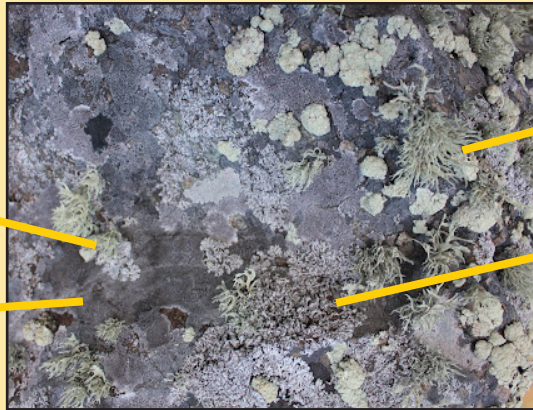
white
fungus
(provides
shape)



green algae
(makes food)

They are in a relationship that helps both.

Can you find lichen growing on other kinds of lichen?



leafy

crusty

shrubby

leafy

How might this be helpful to them?

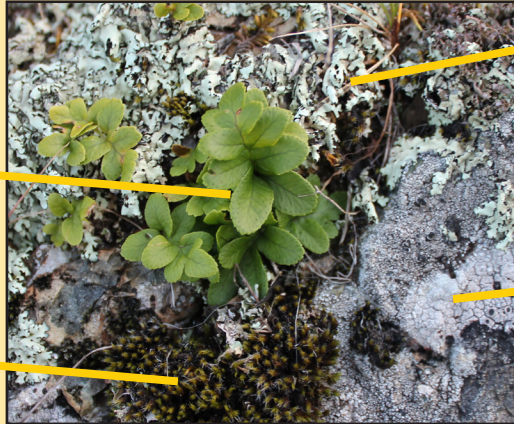
This is moss.

Mosses are plants. Lichens are not plants.



Can you notice any differences between moss and lichen?

Can you find mosses or other plants growing on lichen?



plant

moss

lichen

lichen

Does lichen harm living trees?



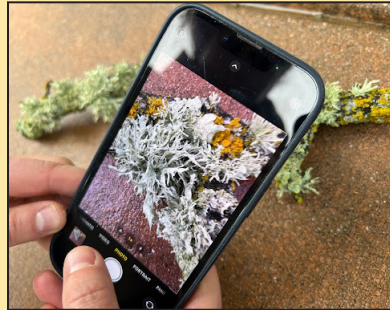
No. Lichen grows on dead branches, but it does NOT harm them.

Why might dead wood be easier for lichen to grow on than living wood?

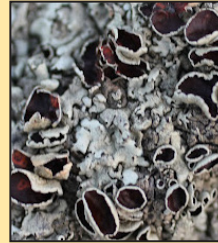
Take a photo or video of cool lichen.



What can you see very close up?



What do you wonder about lichen?



- Can you answer questions through observing, reading, or looking them up?
- Where else could you find and observe lichen?



Think back on your experience.



Think about or discuss:

- What did you learn about lichen?
- What did you do that helped you learn about lichen?

To see more *Flipping Through Nature: Card Decks to Guide Outdoor Exploration* activities, visit lwrcnce.org/center-for-environmental-learning. There you will also find guides for using the *Flipping Through Nature* card decks, photo acknowledgments, and more information.



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