



FUN WITH FUNGI

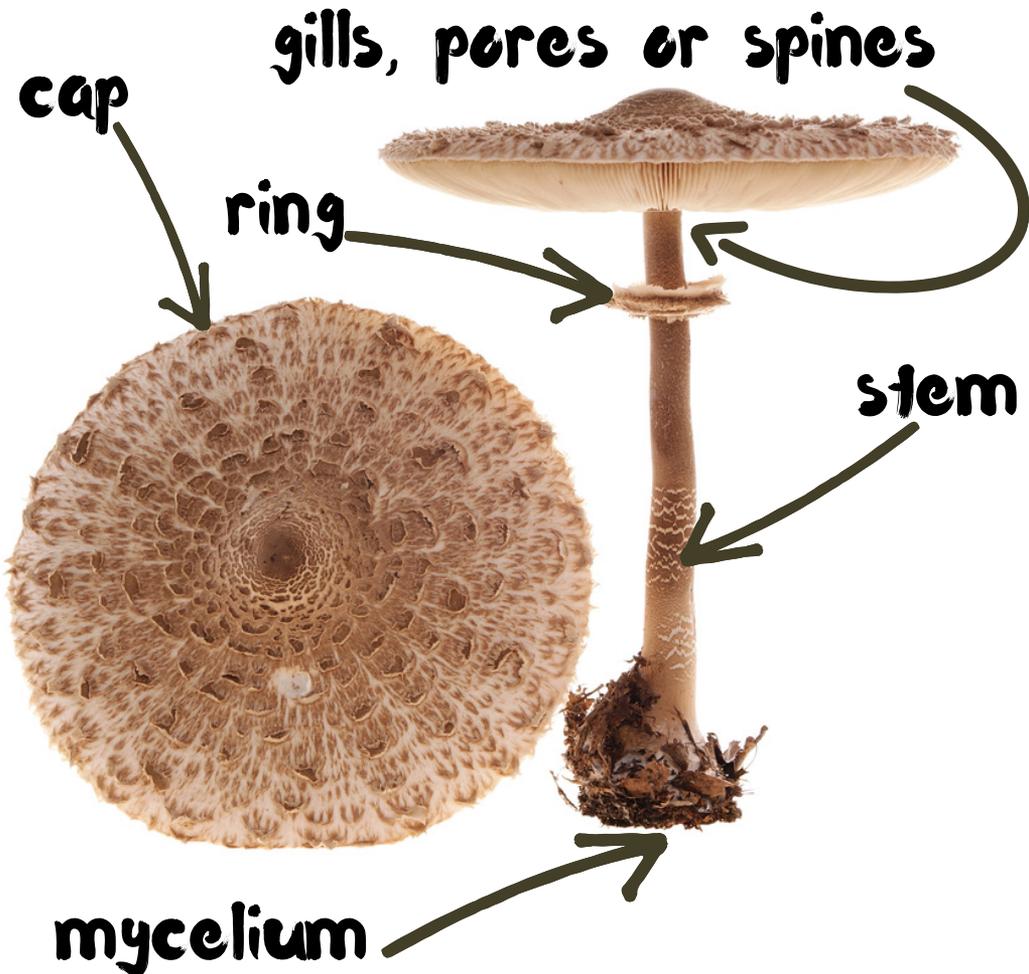


Childhood
by Nature

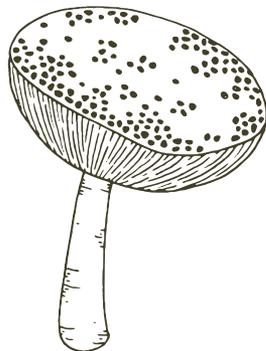


MUSHROOM ANATOMY

Although all mushroom species look different, below are the typical parts of a mushroom. When you find a mushroom, try to identify these parts .



MUSHROOM OBSERVATION



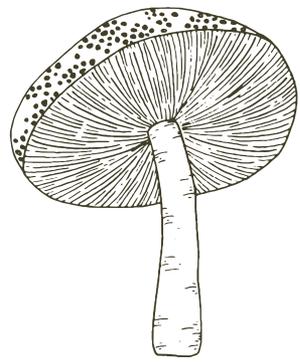
After you head out on a mushroom hunt, draw your mushroom in the box above. Label the parts of the mushroom you can identify.

MUSHROOM HUNTING FIELD NOTES



In the space below, describe where you found your mushroom. Be sure to mention where it was growing, what was nearby and what the weather was like.

FUNGI GLOSSARY



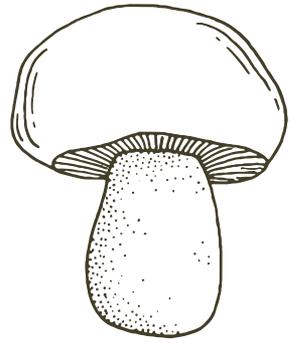
Fungus: Plural fungi, any of about 144,000 known species of organisms of the kingdom Fungi, which includes the yeasts, rusts, smuts, mildews, molds, and mushrooms.

Mushroom: A mushroom or toadstool is the fleshy, spore-bearing fruiting body of a fungus, typically produced above ground, on soil, or on its food source.

Lichen: An organism comprising a fungus and an alga or a cyanobacterium.

Mycologist: A mycologist is someone who works with fungi.

FUNGI GLOSSARY

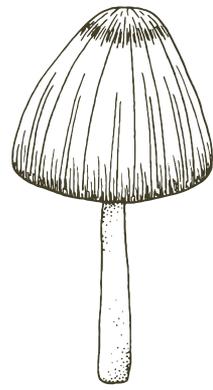


Cap: The top part of a mushroom. A thin membrane that protects the gills and spores until the mushroom reaches full maturity and is ready to release the spores.

Stem: Stalk-like feature supporting the cap of a mushroom. The stem (or stipe) helps in spore dispersal as an elevated mushroom will more easily release its spores into wind currents or onto passing animals.

Annulus: An annulus is the ring-like structure sometimes found on the stipe of some species of mushrooms.

FUNGI GLOSSARY



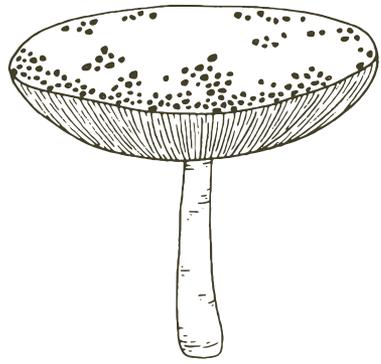
Spore: The reproductive structure of a fungus, usually a single cell.

Fruiting Body: The fruiting bodies of fungi contain spores, which are dispersed for reproduction. Mushrooms are a familiar example of a fruiting body.

Polypore: A large group of diverse mushrooms that release their spores through pores. Polypores sometimes lack a stem and usually grow on wood.

Gills: Mushroom gills are the thin, papery structures that hang vertically under the cap. The sole purpose of these gills, called lamellae, is to produce spores.

FUNGI GLOSSARY

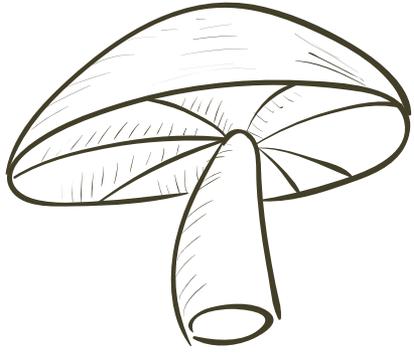


Mycorrhiza: Mycorrhiza is a non-disease-producing association in which the fungus invades the root of a plant to absorb nutrients.

Hyphae: Hyphae are long tubular structures resembling garden hoses produced by fungi. They are important for growth. Together, are referred to as mycelium.

Mycelium: The body of a fungus, most of which is underground or hidden within wood. A mass of threadlike hyphae that make up the fungus

FUNGI SAFETY



A very important message: Always be careful when mushroom hunting! Many mushrooms are poisonous, hallucinogenic, or medicinal. Misidentified mushrooms can make you or your child sick or kill you. Misinformation and misidentification by amateurs is prevalent on the internet. Do not rely on photos you find online. Do not eat mushrooms unless you are 100% certain that they are edible (read: not poisonous). If you have any doubts, ask an expert. You might be able to find one through your local mycological society.