



## How Mushrooms Grow



Mushrooms like to live in dark, damp places. They feed off of the decaying matter around them using **mycelium**. As the mushroom grows, it develops **spores** in the **gills**. The gills are located on the underside of the **cap**. New mushrooms grow from these spores. The spores are so tiny that you can't see them without a microscope. Millions of spores together would look like fine powder.

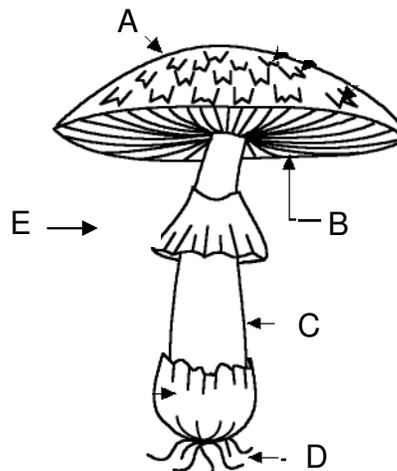
When the spores are ripe, they shoot out of the mushroom. Then they drift away on the wind. They mix with the spores of other mushrooms. If they land in a dark, damp place with a food source, they will grow into new mushrooms. First, they develop a threadlike structure called **hyphae**. Lots of hyphae grow together and form the **mycelium**. The hyphae and the mycelium grow under the surface where you can't see them. Because the mycelium of many kinds of mushrooms tends to grow in a circular pattern, the mushrooms often grow in a circle or ring. These rings are called "fairy rings" because people in the olden days thought they were made by fairies dancing through the night. Next, the **fruiting body** starts to grow. It grows above the surface. When it first appears, it looks like a little button. This button-like part of the fruiting body is called the **cap**. The cap is protected by a thin covering called a **veil**. As the mushroom grows bigger, the veil splits and falls down around the **stalk** (stem) of the mushroom and forms the **annulus**.



### After reading....

1. Answer the reading comprehension questions on your worksheet.
2. Use the words below to label the mushroom on your worksheet:

- Cap
- Gills
- Hyphae
- Spores
- Stalk



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Life Science

Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Section C2.4 – Most fungi are decomposers.

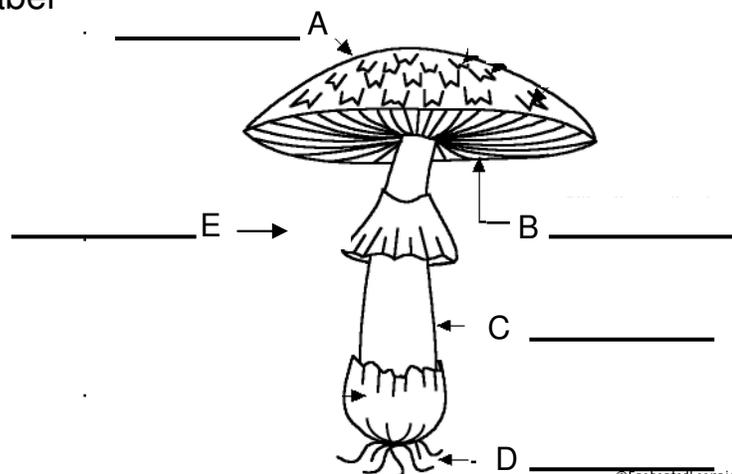
There are three main groups of fungi: mushrooms, molds and yeasts. Today you will visit three stations, representing each of the fungal groups. Complete the task at each station with the members of your group in the time provided.

**Station 1: Mushrooms**

1. Mushrooms like to live in \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ places.
2. They feed off of \_\_\_\_\_ matter around them.
3. New mushrooms grow from the \_\_\_\_\_.
4. The spores grow in the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. The gills are under the \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Spores shoot out of the gills and \_\_\_\_\_ with spores from other mushrooms.
7. The spores are spread by the \_\_\_\_\_.
8. When the spores begin to grow, they first develop \_\_\_\_\_.
9. The hyphae grow into a \_\_\_\_\_.
10. The mycelium produce a \_\_\_\_\_ that can be seen above the surface.

11. Use the words below to label the mushroom to the right:

- Cap
- Gills
- Hyphae
- Spores
- Stalk



## Station 2: Mold

View the short video and answer the following questions about Sir Alexander Fleming and his work with mold.

1. What world event inspired Sir Alexander Fleming to conduct his research experiments?
2. What caused the death of the majority of soldiers at this time?
3. What significant discovery did Fleming make?
4. How did Fleming “accidentally” make his discovery?

## Station 3: Yeast

Observe bottles A and B, and answer the following questions:

Bottles A and B: Both bottles are covered with a balloon and contain warm water and one packet of yeast. However, only bottle A received a teaspoon of sugar.

1. Yeast requires moisture for growth. What requirement for life was fulfilled by adding the teaspoon of sugar to the yeast in bottle A?
2. Record your observations of what you see happening to each balloon-covered bottle.
3. What is possibly causing the balloon on bottle A to rise, while bottle B's does not?