



Intro to Mushroom Anatomy Worksheet

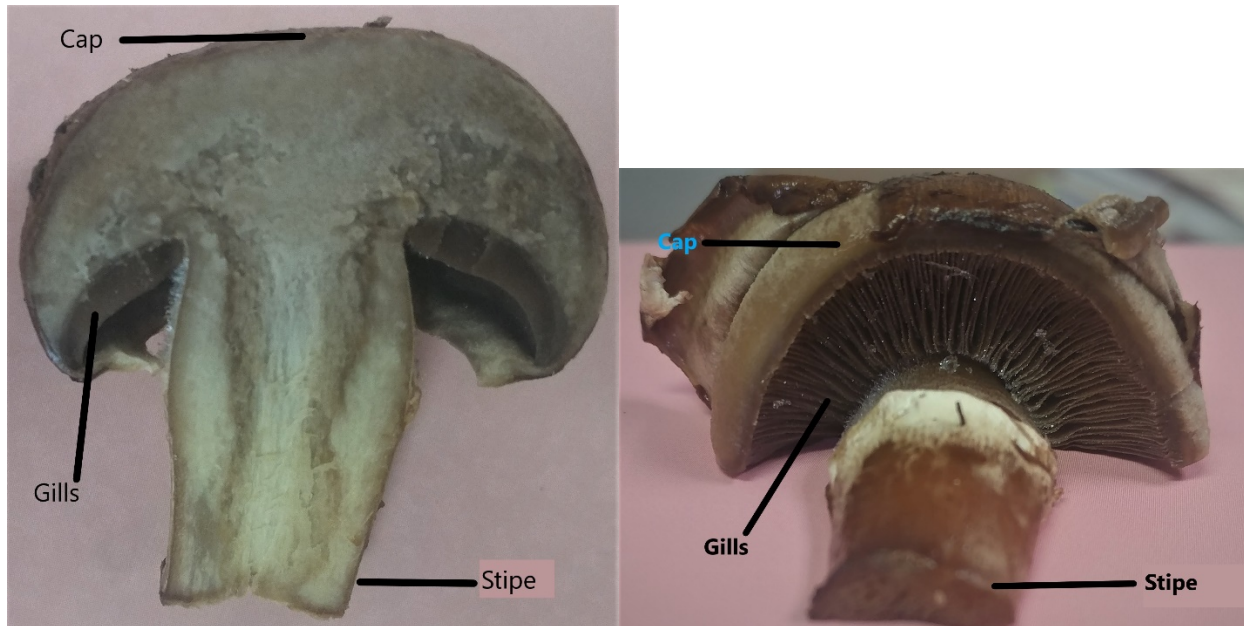


Figure 1 & 2 give you two different perspectives on mushroom anatomy.

Today you are going to explore the world of fungi! Pictured above is a button mushroom that can be found at your local grocery store. Mushrooms are an important source of vitamins and nutrients and come in many flavors. They look a lot like plants, but weirdly enough mushrooms are more closely related to animals. It can be challenging to try and identify mushrooms, but one way is to collect a spore print.

Spores are what the mushrooms uses to reproduce, kind of like a seed to a plant. For the button mushroom the spores are located on the gills labeled above. You can not see an individual spore with your naked eye making them microscopic. Since there are thousands of spores, we can collect them and make a spore print which is what you are going to be doing today.



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For the activity you will need:

- 1-2 Mushrooms with gills. Like the button mushroom above you can buy these at your local grocery store.
- 1 Sheet of white paper.
- A cup or bowl
- Optional: Artist spray or hair spray

Directions for spore print:

- Remove stipe from mushroom cap. Use multiple mushrooms to increase success.
- Place cap gills down on white paper.
- Cover with bowl or cup.
- Let sit overnight.
- Check in the morning.

Once done setting up the activity answer the following questions.

What color do you think the spores will be? And why? The color of the spores is a great way to help identify the mushroom.



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In the morning you will be able to check your spore print. What color are the spores?

To preserve the spore print you just made you can spray it with artist spray or hair spray. Be careful not to spray off the spores! You can also turn your spore print into art. Feel free to share it on social media but don't forget to tag Sanctuary One.

The parts of the mushroom you made the spore print with is called a **fruiting body**. This is the part of the mushroom that is above ground, the part we see. What lies underground is a vast network of **mycelium**. Mycelium is what transports water and nutrients to the fruiting body and sometimes to neighboring plants. Strands within the mycelium called **hyphae** connect with the roots of a plant and they exchange nutrients and water. Mycelium can travel farther in the soil than the roots of a plant.

How do you think this partnership is beneficial for plants?



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Below draw what you imagine a network of mycelium and plant roots look like underground. The next time you are in the woods flip over a log and you might just see white mycelium.

Thank you for participating in Sanctuary One education. We are putting out new material each week. I hope you enjoyed Intro into Mushroom Anatomy this is just a glimpse into the world of fungi. Keep learning!