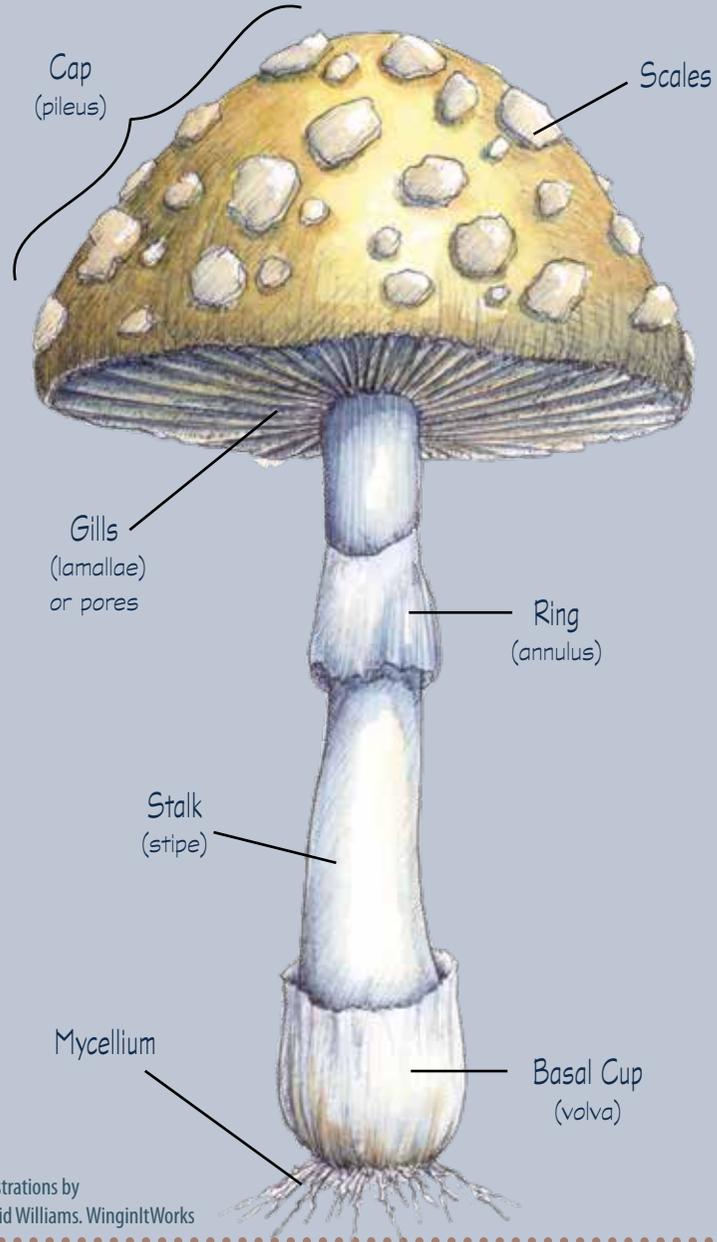


PARTS OF A MUSHROOM

The image below represents a composite mushroom that shows all the major parts that might be found on a mushroom. Find a mushroom near the trail. How many different parts can you identify?

Note: not all mushrooms have all of these parts.



Illustrations by David Williams. WinginItWorks

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Thanks for joining us today!

Visit our website to find more TRACK Trail™ adventures near you!



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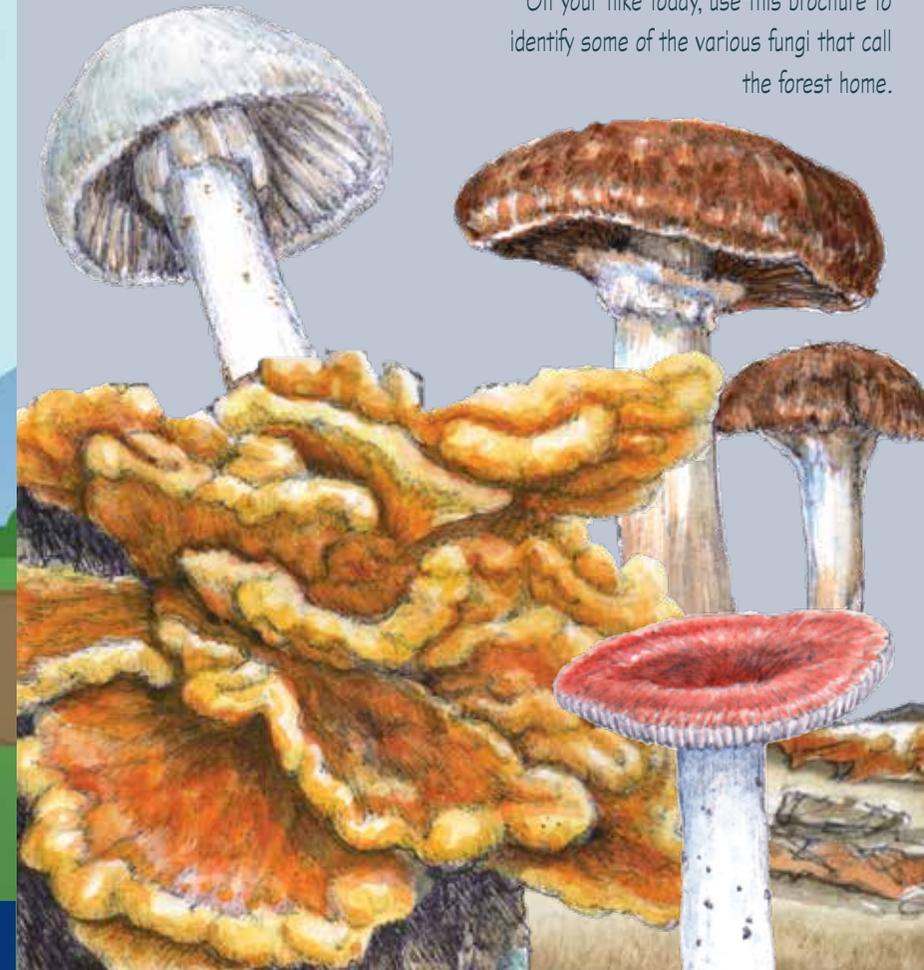
Kids in Parks is a program of the



FUN with FUNGI

Fungi can be found in many forms. Molds, mildew, yeast and mushrooms are all fungi. From under the water to on your toes, fungi grow almost everywhere.

On your hike today, use this brochure to identify some of the various fungi that call the forest home.



WARNING: Many fungi contain toxins that can be harmful or fatal. DO NOT HANDLE or EAT any mushrooms you find on the trail.

FUNGUS FRUIT

When you find a mushroom in the woods, you are seeing only a small part of the fungus. The mushroom is the "fruit" of the fungus, where spores ("seeds") are produced. Different types of mushrooms have different ways of releasing their spores.

AGARICS

Most agarics are shaped like umbrellas; they have an open cap and a stalk. These gilled mushrooms have tiny ridges (gills) on the underside of the cap where the spores are released.

- The Destroying Angel
Amanita bisporagera



- Honey Fungus
Genus: *Armillaria*



- The Sickener
Russula emetica



OH, MYCELIUM!

The mycelium, or "body" of the fungus, is usually hidden underground. The mycelium is made up of thread-like cells called hyphae which release enzymes and absorb nutrients.

Turn over a decomposing stick or look under a log:

Can you find any threads of a mycelium?

MUSHROOMS AND FUNGI

Check the circle next to each type of fungi you find on your hike.

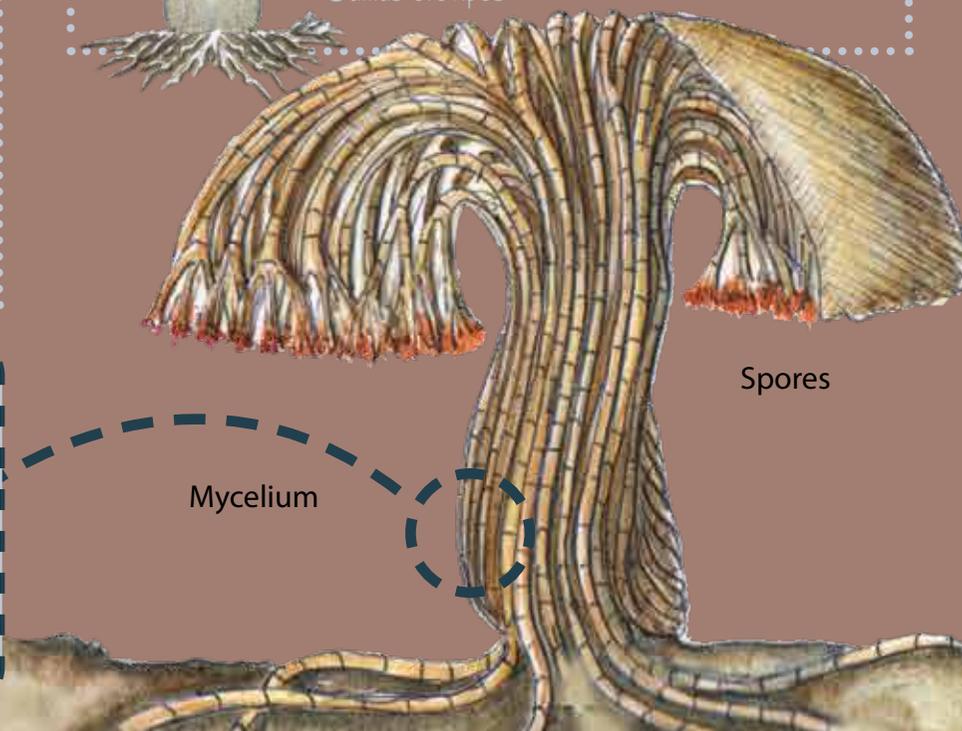
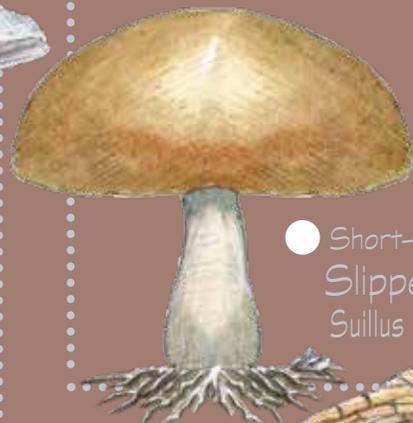
BOLETES

Boletes have a stalk and a round cap; but unlike gilled mushrooms, the underside of the cap is spongy.

- False Earthstar
Astraeus hygrometricus



- Short-stemmed Slippery Jack
Suillus brevipes



YOU ARE WHERE YOU EAT

Unlike plants, fungi do not make food from sunlight, but rather absorb nutrients from other living and dead organisms around them. Fungi are usually found growing in or on their food. Find a fungus near the trail:

Can you find its food source?

- Yellow Morel
Morchella virginiana



- Yellowfoot (funnel chanterelle)
Craterellus tubaeformis



BRACKET FUNGI

Often growing on tree trunks, shelf fungi look like... well, shelves. Many shelf fungi can be found throughout the year because they are woody. Look for tiny ridges on the underside of the shelf where the spores are released.

- Chicken of the Woods
Laetiporus sulfureus



- Turkey Tail
Trametes Versicolor



FUNGUS FUNCTIONS

Fungi play an important role as decomposers, helping to break down and recycle organic matter back into the soil. Without fungi, the forest floor would be littered with leaves, logs, and animal waste.

Can you find a log that is being decomposed by mushrooms?