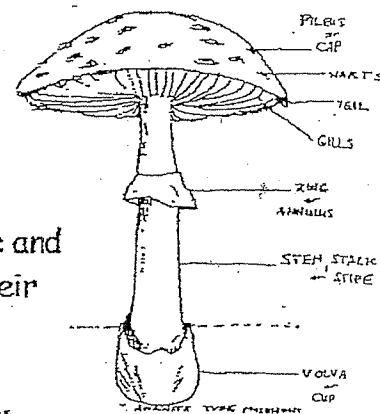


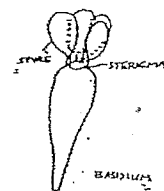
MAJOR MACROFUNGI GROUPS

Most mushroom field guides will sort fungi into groups by their shape and spore producing structure, but these groups do not always reflect their evolutionary relationships.



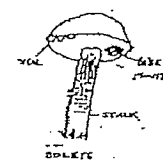
ASCOMYCOTA – morels, truffles, cup fungi, earth tongues and more; spores are released from microscopic sac-like structures called asci.

BASIDIOMYCOTA – typical mushrooms, puffballs, shelf fungi and others; spores are produced on club-like microscopic structures called basidia.

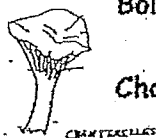


Agarics – fleshy, with gills under cap, with or without a stalk

Boletes – stalked, fleshy with pores (open ends of tubes) under cap



Chanterelles – fleshy, usually vase-like, blunt, forked ridges under cap



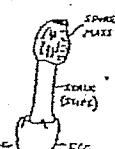
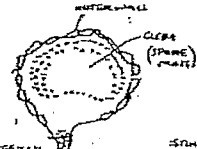
Coral fungi – look like coral with single or branched projections



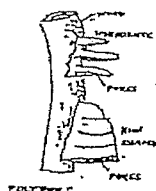
Jelly fungi – jelly-like masses most often on wood; yellow or dark



Puffballs and allies – spores develop in an enclosed structure; includes earthstars, bird's nest fungi and stinkhorns



Shelf fungi – polypores are tough to woody with pores under the cap; usually on wood; crust or leather fungi are smooth underneath



Teeth fungi – fleshy to tough, usually with cap and stalk; spine-like projections under cap are called teeth.



HOW TO MAKE A SPORE PRINT

Remove stem near cap. Place cap (gill or pore side down) on white or half white/half dark paper. Leave undisturbed for a few hours or overnight (may be covered with a cup). Remove cap to see spore print. Is the color white, yellowish, light salmon, rusty brown, clay brown, olive brown, purple brown or black? The color will be a clue to the identification of the mushroom. The spore prints may be sprayed with artist's fixative to prevent smudging.

