

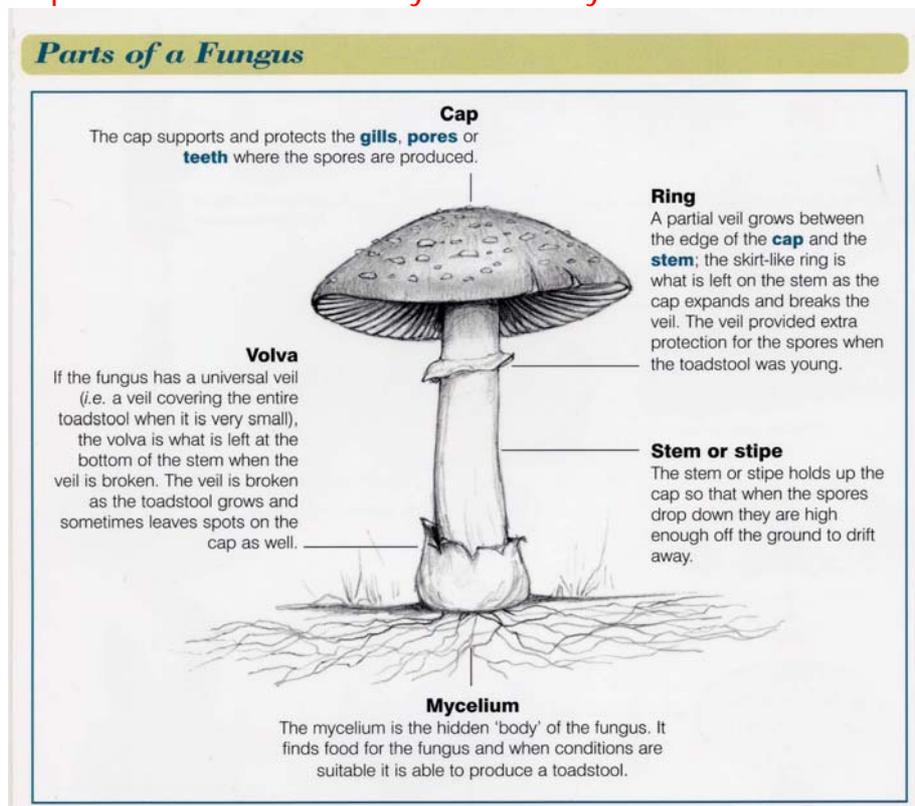
# Mushroom Chop Up!!!

This is your chance to get your hands messy and have a look at the structure of different types of mushrooms.

We have provided a selection of mushrooms for you to dissect. Look at the following things-:

- Colour and texture of the cap
- The structures underneath the cap
- Length, width and texture of the stem
- The structure of the mushrooms (cut the mushroom vertically down the centre to see the different layers that make up its internal structure; then try cutting the cap across a chord to look at the gills and how they attach to the cap flesh) Look at the diagrams on the next few pages to help you identify the parts.

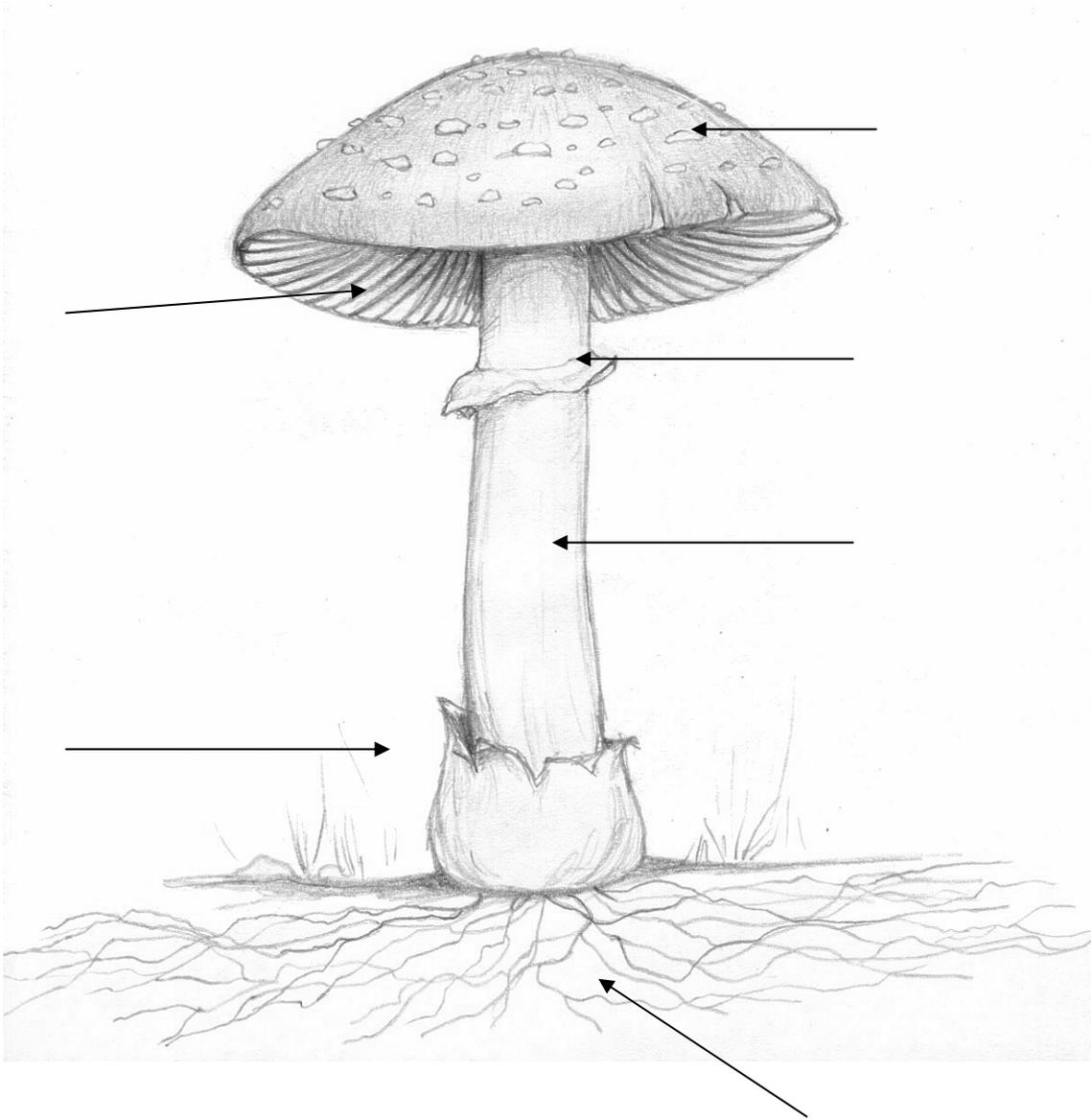
Because all the mushrooms provided are edible, why don't you try each of the mushrooms? Do they taste and/or smell different from one another? Are their textures different on your tongue? **NEVER eat any fungi that you find in the wild as some fungi are poisonous and can make you seriously ill.**



From *The Fungi Name Trail* by Liz Holden & Kath Hamper

## Parts of a Fungus

The words at the bottom of this page tell you about the parts of a mushroom fungus. Can you choose one of these words to label each part of this mushroom diagram?



stem or stipe

volva

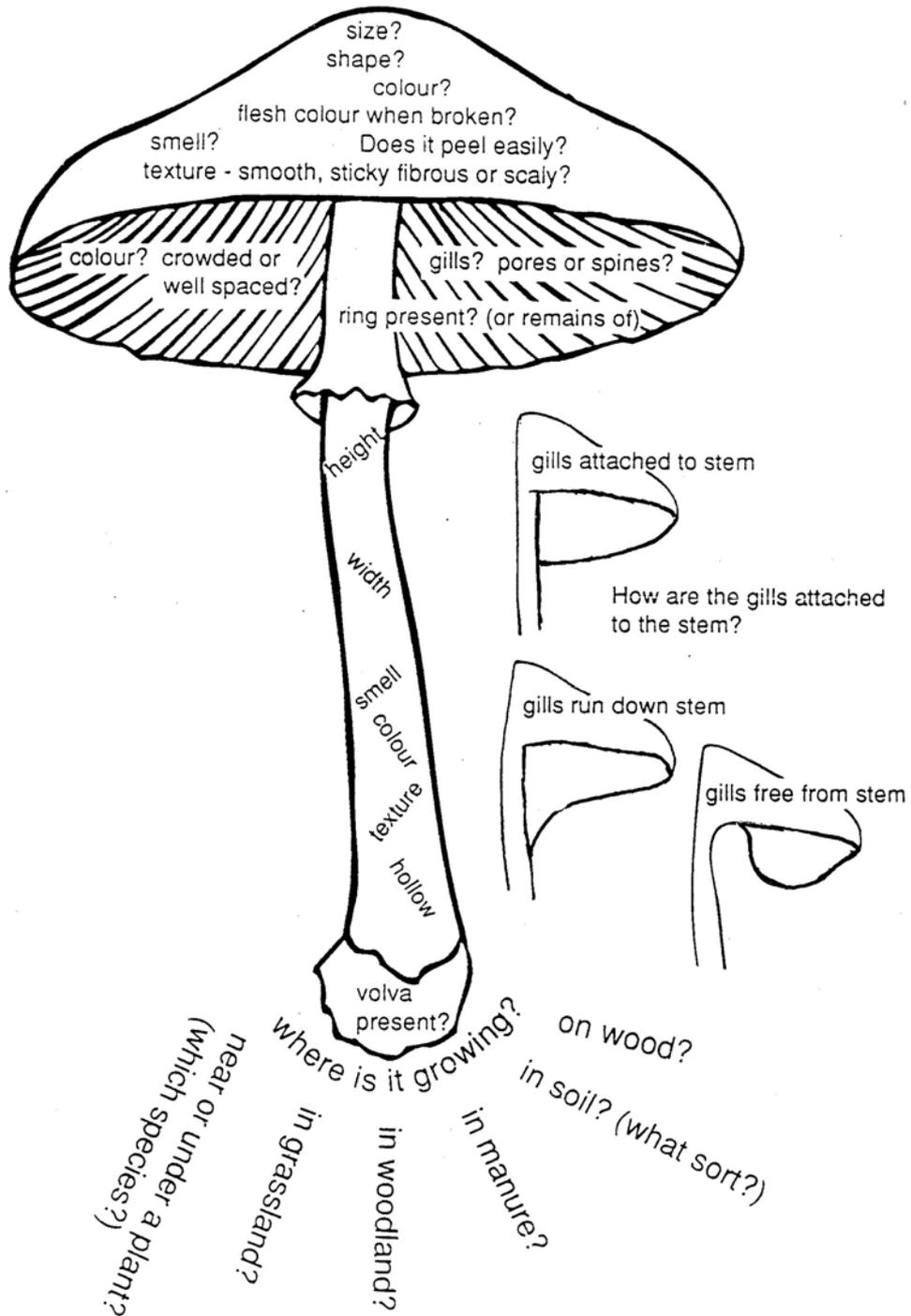
cap

mycelium

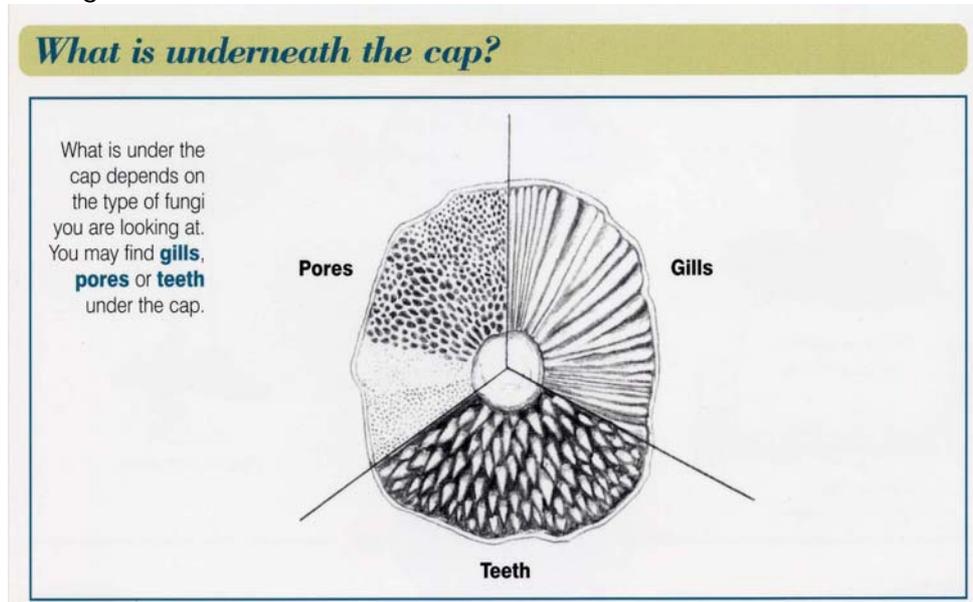
gills

ring

# What to look for when identifying fungi



The spores of a mushroom are found under the cap. Spores can be held in **gills, pores** or **teeth** (also called **spines**); as is shown in the diagram below. These structures release the spores so that they can travel to other places to grow.



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Now that you have looked at the mushrooms provided, choose your favourite and make a drawing of it in the box below, then answer the questions that follow.

What is the name of your mushroom? .....

Does it have gills, pores or teeth? .....

Does your mushroom have tissues? .....

Why do mushrooms have gills? .....