

WORKSHEET 11

NOTES

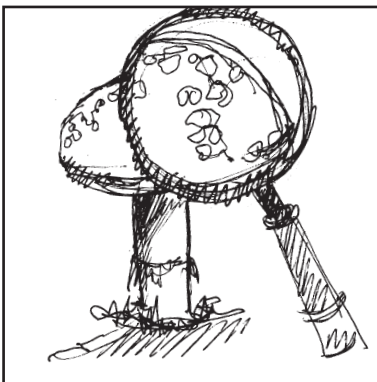
HOW THE MUSHROOM GOT ITS SPOTS

You will need:

A standard size round balloon - preferably red
A roll of white toilet tissue
Water (in a dropper bottle if possible).

What to do:

1. Explain that when conditions are suitable, the threads that make up the fungus (underground or hidden in the food substrate) form a tightly packed 'knot' which gradually expands to produce a 'fruit body', represented by the unexpanded balloon.
2. The fungus is protected by being completely enclosed by a membrane called a 'universal veil'. Illustrate this by wrapping the balloon in the tissue paper.
3. Explain that all living things need water to grow and fungi are no exception. Sprinkle several drops onto the top area of tissue and begin to inflate the balloon. "Now watch what happens to the veil when the fungus begins to grow"
4. Keep hold of the bottom of the tissue and let the balloon rupture the tissue - the results should be impressive!



Tips:

- Prepare the balloon by blowing it up once before the demonstration - there is nothing worse than trying to blow up a recalcitrant balloon in front of an expectant audience!
- Some brands of toilet tissue work much better than others, so some advance market research is advisable