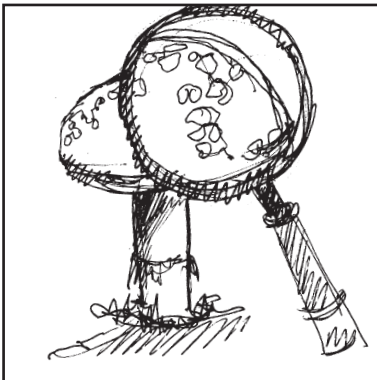


## WORKSHEET 10

### NOTES

**Health and Safety**  
**ALWAYS WASH**  
**YOUR HANDS**  
**AFTER TOUCHING**  
**FUNGI**



## HOW TO MAKE A SPORE PRINT

Mushrooms produce millions of spores, which are equivalent to the seeds of plants but without the massive food reserves. Spores are made on the plate-like gills underneath the cap of a mushroom (or in the tubes of a bolete). When they are mature they fall off the gill and are blown about by the wind. Spores are so small that you normally need a microscope to see them, but with a spore print thousands of spores are all seen together.

### *You will need:*

A mushroom  
A sheet of white paper  
A sheet of black paper  
A jam jar or similar container  
Sticky tape  
Hair spray (optional)  
(Patience)



### *What to do:*

1. Overlap the two sheets of paper and join them at the back with sticky tape.
2. Gently remove the cap from the mushroom and place it face down on the joined paper so that half is on each colour.
3. Cover the mushroom with the jam jar to stop it drying out.
4. Leave everything where it is for at least 2 hours.
5. Carefully remove the jam jar and fungus. You should see a pattern on one half of the joined paper depending on the colour of the spores.
6. To prevent smudging, "fix" your spore print with hair spray.

### *Problems?*

If there is no pattern the mushroom might be too old or too dry, or you may need to leave it for longer (fungi may take up to a day to release their spores). Shop-bought fungi are not ideal for this activity as the gills can move away from the vertical during transport and storage. Use freshly picked field mushrooms if possible.