

WORKSHEET 14

NOTES

A SIMPLE KEY TO FUNGI

This is a very simple key designed to discriminate between the major kinds of fungi that you might find on a foray.

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| 1 | Cap with central stalk | Go to 2 |
| 1 | No cap with central stalk | Go to 3 |
| 2 | Plate-like gills under the cap | Gilled mushroom (agaric, russula) |
| 2 | "Pin cushion" under the cap | Bolete |
| 3 | Growing on a tree | Go to 4 |
| 3 | Not growing on a tree | Go to 6 |
| 4 | Like a hard shelf | Bracket |
| 4 | Not like a hard shelf | Go to 5 |
| 5 | Forms a mass over the tree | Crust fungus |
| 5 | Jelly-like | Jelly fungus |
| 6 | Cup-shaped | Go to 7 |
| 6 | Not cup-shaped | Go to 8 |
| 7 | Regular in shape, containing eggs | Bird's nest fungus |
| 7 | Irregular shape, no eggs | Cup fungus |
| 8 | Ball-shaped | Go to 9 |
| 8 | Not ball shaped | Go to 10 |
| 9 | Ball has thin wall | Puff ball |
| 9 | Ball has thick wall | Earth ball |
| 10 | Star-shaped base | Earth star |
| 10 | Not star-shaped base | Go to 11 |
| 11 | Club-shaped or coral-like | Club fungus |
| 11 | Not club-shaped or coral-like | Go to 12 |
| 12 | Spores borne on erect hollow stalk (smelly!) | Stinkhorn |
| 12 | Spores not on erect hollow stalk | Various species |

