

Fungi Terms

Gills: Thin, paper-like structures that hang vertically under a mushroom cap. These help to drop and spread spores

Jelly Fungi: These are jelly-like, sometimes translucent, and are often shapeless or cup-like

Mycelium: System of thin, spider web-like threads that play a similar role to plant roots (seeking out nutrients). These structures stretch out underground, through logs, and in other materials that fungi grow on, and make up most of the mass of fungal organisms

Mycology: The scientific study of fungi

Pores: Sponge-like tubes (that look like holes) on the underside of a mushroom. These structures are used for spore dispersal

Puffball: A spherical (or sometimes oval, semi-staked) fungus. When older, puffballs "puff" out clouds of dust-like spores when hit (sometimes by a water droplet) or squished (perhaps by a passing animal)

Spores: Cells that are key in fungi reproduction. Spores are released from fungi from various structures. When many spores are released, they often appear as colored powder

Teeth: Thin spines that grow downwards from a mushroom. These structures are used for spore dispersal