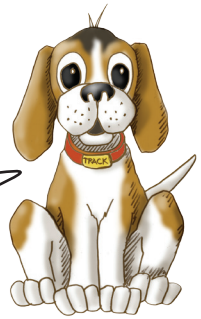




# Mushroom Madness TRACK-tivity



The best time to look for mushrooms is after a long summer rain!

Mushrooms are like the “fruit” of a fungus, where spores (“seeds”) are produced. Different mushrooms have different ways of releasing their spores, and this helps scientists classify them. On your next hike, try to find one of each of the different types of mushrooms below. For your safety, DO NOT TOUCH any mushrooms you find.

## Gilled Mushrooms

Gilled mushrooms are shaped like umbrellas; they have an open cap and a stalk. Gilled mushrooms have tiny ridges (gills) on the underside of the cap where the spores are released.



**Golden Chanterelle**  
*Cantharellus cibarius*



## Puffballs

Puffballs do not have a stalk or an open cap and spread their spores by puffing them out of a hole. Puffballs grow in a variety of sizes. Some look like eggs while others look like sport balls.

**Giant Puffball**  
*Calvatia gigantea*



**Old Man of the Woods**  
*Strobilomyces floccopus*

## Boletes

Boletes have a stalk and a round cap but unlike gilled mushrooms, the underside of the cap is spongy.



**Turkey Tail**  
*Trametes versicolor*

## Shelf Fungi

Often growing on tree trunks, shelf fungi look like, well... shelves. Many shelf fungi can be found throughout the year because they are woody (very sturdy). Look for tiny ridges on the underside of the shelf where the spores are released.

## Mushroom Parts

The image below represents a composite mushroom that shows all the major parts that might be found on a mushroom. Find a mushroom near the trail. How many different parts can you identify?

Note: not all mushrooms have all of these parts.

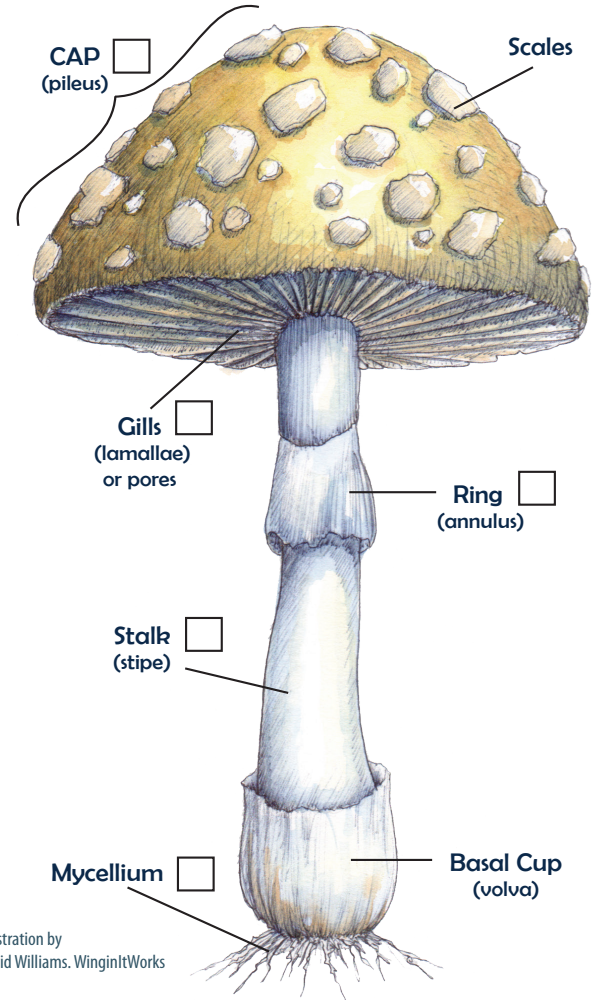


Illustration by David Williams. WinginItWorks