

EDUCATION

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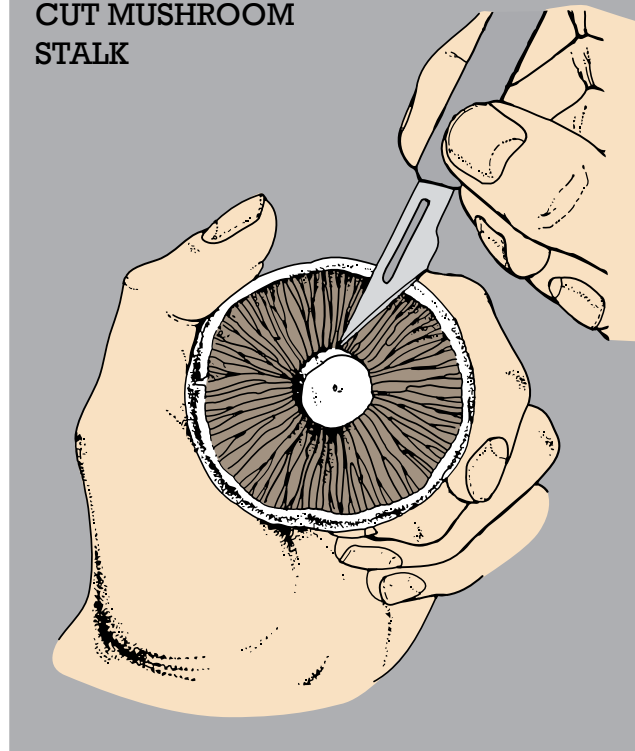
MAKING SPORE PRINTS

Fungi reproduce not by seeds but by tiny spores which are released from the underside of the cap. These are scattered and eventually grow into new fungi. You can collect these spores as they are released and make a spore print. It is like a finger print.

You need:

- A freshly opened young umbrella shaped fungi
 - A sharp knife
 - Coloured or white paper or card
 - A bowl
 - Fixative spray or hairspray
1. Cut the stalk off the mushroom very close to the cap. For best results you need a cap that has an even rim around it. This will support the whole cap while the spores fall from the gills.
 2. Place the cap on the paper, gills down, and cover with a box or bowl. Remember, spores can be carried in the wind, so make sure there are no draughts. The slightest draught will disturb the lines of the spores and smudge the print. Leave for several hours or overnight depending on the ripeness of the cap.
 3. Remove the bowl and cap and you will see a pattern of spores showing up on the paper.

CUT MUSHROOM STALK



SHAGGY PARASOL



COVER THE CAP

MAKING SPORE PRINTS

4. The spore print is easily damaged because the spores are loose. If you want to preserve it, spray it very lightly with artist's fixative spray or hairspray. To avoid smudging, spray horizontally 60cms away. It may need 2 or 3 coats.
5. Try using paper of colours different from the colour of the underside of the cap for an attractive contrast effect.

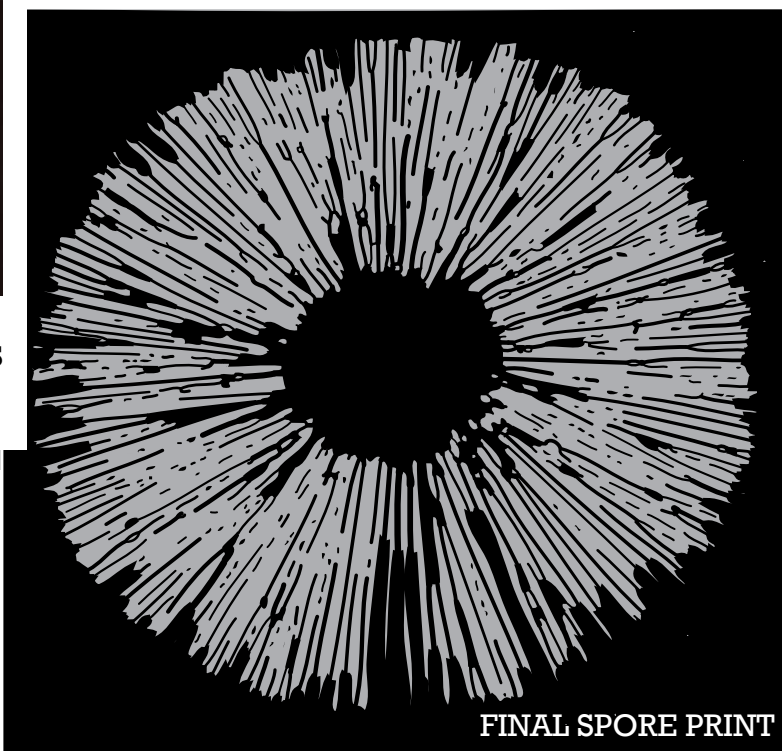
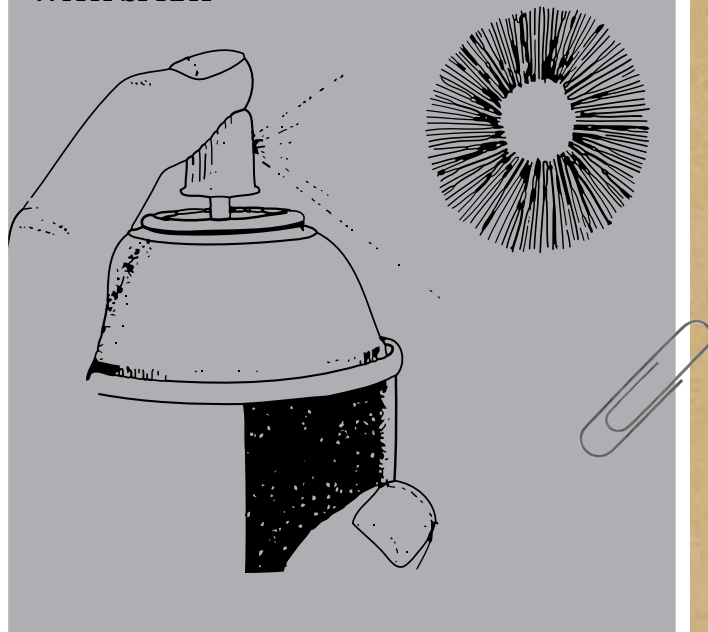
If you want to identify the fungi you find, there are plenty of good books to help you:

Collins Gem Guide to Mushrooms & Toadstools
by J Wilkinson.



PORCELAIN FUNGUS

PRESERVE THE PRINT WITH SPRAY



Our aim is to protect, conserve and promote the natural and built environment for the benefit of present and future generations.

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