

WHERE ARE THE MUSHROOMS?







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the kingdom Of fungi

Hi!

My name's Fungus, and I'm one of the many fungi that live in Andorra. But do you know what fungi are?

We're not plants Or animals We live in nature And we're microorganisms So come in and say hi... and discover the kingdom of fungi!

The kingdom of fungi is very different to the plant and animal kingdoms. We reproduce through spores, which are like dust that travels through nature, rather than moving like animals do. The weather and soil make us grow, and also make us different from each other. We're eaten by many animals - including you humans! - and we live on organic waste matter, which is why we also play an important role in the food chain.

Over 75,000 species of fungi are known, although they say there are more than a million! Imagine that!

> Isn't that interesting? Now follow the path shown in the guide and enter the mushroom forest. Many surprises await you...

USE A PEN OR A PENCIL

Look closely! In this magical forest there are also 3 hidden mushrooms... Can you see them?







What types of mushroom are there?

Now you know which kingdom we come from, let's get to know each other a little better.

Fungi are divided into two main groups: **microscopic and macroscopic**.



MICROSCOPIC

- They're tiny and must be viewed under a microscope.
- They help to create new foods and medicines.
- They cause disease in animals, plants and humans.
- They're found in baker's yeast, rotten food and foot fungus!

MACROSCOPIC

- They form mushrooms that are visible to the naked eye.
- · They're found in nature.
- They differ depending on the type of soil, plant and tree.
- They need specific temperature and moisture levels in order to grow.

During this excursion, you'll discover macroscopic fungi, or those that are visible to the naked eye, which is the group I belong to. So, where can you find us?





MEADOWS





OAK FORESTS







WASTELANDS

the saffron milk cap

This is the family of the Faffron milk cap, one of Andorra's favourite mushrooms. When you cut them, an orange liquid comes out that can stain your fingers! If you look at the photo, you'll see they're very similar to the (highly toxic) woolly milk cap, which looks a lot like the saffron milk cap. It's furry, but when you cut it, the liquid that comes out is white.

Not all of the mushrooms you'll find are edible! Mushrooms can have a different effect depending on whether you're a human or an animal. Some mushrooms are so poisonous, they could kill you! Other types of mushroom can look very similar, which can be confusing. So, if you're not sure which type we are, don't pick us!



SAFFRON MILK CAP Lactarius deliciosus



WOOLLY MILK CAP Lactarius torminosus

Q LOOK AROUND YOU

Saffron milk caps love playing leapfrog. Do you know how to play? See if you can be the fastest to jump over each mushroom!

Go over to the saffron milk cap family to jump and play.







how do mushrooms grow?

We mushrooms live underground and are made up of tiny threads called **hyphae**, similar to a cobweb. Together, we form a **mycelium**, which is a bit like a child's head on which every hair is a hypha, or thread.

Under the right temperature and moisture conditions, these threads come together to form mushrooms, which is where the **spores** are made. With help from the wind, rain and animals, these spores travel and end up being buried somewhere else. There, in the soil, they create new hyphae and a new mycelium.

Oh, but, don't think we appear by magic, even though we grow very quickly and we each have a different shape. Some of us are rounder, some are wrinklier, and so on. We also have different smells and colours. Some of us smell like things you're familiar with, such as milk, flour and fruit - even wet soil and moss!

🖉 USE A PEN OR A PENCIL

Look closely at the drawing. Some of it has disappeared! Connect the numbered dots and follow them in order to find the hidden figure. Now you can complete the life cycle of a mushroom.



mushroom shapes

Some mushrooms have the typical cap and stalk, while others may be gelatinous, shaped like a beehive, long and thin, and more. **Essentially, we're like all of you: unique and individual.**





the porcini mushroom

That's me, Fungus: I'm a porcini mushroom! They say I'm delicious, although I must admit, I've never tasted myself.

I have a big, wide stalk and an enormous, round cap. I can be brown or white and I grow near pine trees, often well-hidden.

Now that you know what I'm like, do you want to know what the parts of a mushroom's body are?



USE A PEN OR A PENCIL

Read each description carefully and connect each name to a part of the body!

This is my cap's This is like a belt protective cover. that some mushrooms have like a raincoat near the top of their stalk. to keep me safe. CAP STALK \cap This is the widest part This is the part of the mushroom and that holds up the 1 sits above the stalk. hymenium and the cap. But not every mushroom has a stalk! HYMENIUM () O VOLVA This is the part that's This is the part underneath that surrounds the cap and has gills, the base of the stalk folds or tubes. It's where in some species. the spores are formed.



What do mushrooms fat? We can get food from two sources. Some of us get food from trees, which give us the sugars we need, and in return we give them water and mineral salts.

Some of us get food from trees that are still living, while others eat matter that we find in the soil, such as fallen leaves, dead insects, and so on. But, hey! We don't eat man-made rubbish like plastic or tin cans, because they can't be broken down.

That's why you must always take your rubbish with you.

🔌 USE A PEN OR A PENCIL

Help him grow! As you can see, this is still a small mushroom and he needs your help to grow. To do this, you need to reproduce his exact shape by enlarging its size as you change the grid.





the fairy ring mushroom

Fairy ring mushrooms have a long stalk and a cone-shaped cap. They often smell like wet grass and tend to grow in meadows and clearings.

Have you ever tried an omelette made from fairy ring mushrooms? Mmmm, it's delicious!



LOOK AROUND YOU

Go over to one of the giant fairy ring mushrooms and pretend to be wearing its cap.





mushroom Names

Like all other living things, we fungi have a scientific name, to define which group we belong to and the characteristics we have. It's like having a name and a surname to identify whether we're cousins, siblings or just friends.

Of course, we fungi call each other by more familiar names, and those names can change depending on where we're picked. For example, in English I'm known as Fungus, but here in Andorra they call me Bolet!

Q LOOK AROUND YOU

the morel

Allow me to introduce you to the morel, a solitary and very special mushroom that has a very strange shape. Morels will give you tummy trouble if they're not cooked properly, but they're highly sought-after by top chefs!

Go over and have a closer look. The morel's cap contains a maze! Can you find the way out? Who'll be the fastest?







USE A PEN OR A PENCIL

Can you identify the shape of each mushroom? Connect them to their photo to find out what they're called in Latin and what we call them in Andorra.





identifying mushrooms

Discover the mushrooms most commonly found in Andorra and find out when and where they grow, what they're like and if they can be eaten... Have you ever picked one?

Each mushroom grows in a specific place and at the right temperature and moisture level. That's why we don't always find the same mushrooms in spring and autumn, or in summer and winter.



ST GEORGE'S MUSHROOM Calocybe gambosa



MOREL Morchella conica



FAIRY RING MUSHROOM Marasmius oreades



CHANTERELLE Cantharellus cibarius



YELLOW FOOT Cantharellus lutescens



PORCINI MUSHROOM Boletus edulis



SAFFRON MILK CAP Lactarius deliciosus



GREY KNIGHT Tricholoma terreum



COPPER SPIKE Chroogomphus rutilus



CORAL FUNGUS Ramaria flavescens











PARASOL MUSHROOM Macrolepiota procera



FOOL'S WEBCAP Cortinarius orellanus



CINNAMON WEBCAP Cortinarius cinnamomeus



SPLIT FIBRECAP Inocybe rimosa



FUNERAL BELL Galerina marginata



WOOLLY MILK CAP Lactarius torminosus



DEVIL'S BOLETE Boletus satanas



ASHEN KNIGHT Tricholoma virgatum



DEATH CAP Amanita phalloides



FLY AGARIC Amanita muscaria



CHESTNUT DAPPERLING Lepiota castanea



CAULIFLOWER FUNGUS Sparassis crispa



THE AMANITA

Between point 6 and point 7, you'll find various rocks painted with red and white mushrooms, known as *Amanita muscaria*, and green mushrooms known as *Amanita phalloides*. They're so pretty, they look like something out of a fairy tale! You could almost picture an Andorran *menairó* or a fairy sitting on them. There are 35 of these hidden rocks, and all I can tell you is that you'll find 23 of one species, and only 11 of the other... or is it 12? Are they all amanitas, or is there an odd one out?





Amanita muscaria



Amanita phalloides

Aren't they pretty? In fact, the mushrooms in the paintings are the most poisonous and deadly for you humans, although for certain animals, they're harmless. Amanitas are mushrooms **you must NEVER pick!** Follow the trail and find them all...

Have you found them all? How many *muscarias* and how many *phalloides*? And can you tell me which mushroom is the odd one out, and can be eaten because it's not poisonous?

Do you know Who eats them?

Although many species of mushrooms are edible, we've seen that many others you CANNOT eat. Do you know who does eat them, though? Many animals that live in the forest, such as foxes, wild boar, roe deer, lizards, moles, field mice and others.

So when you're in the forest, even if you identify a mushroom as a species that's poisonous for humans, don't damage it. Remember that it provides food for the animals that live in the forest and for many plants and trees!

🔌 USE A PEN OR A PENCIL

Help the squirrel eat a mushroom! Connect the numbers from 1 to 12 and help our friend the squirrel enjoy a delicious dinner.



USE A PEN OR A PENCIL

Now that you know more about which mushrooms are edible and which are to be avoided, can you say which statements are true and which are false?

FALSE TRUE X 1 \bigcirc 2 \bigcirc \bigcirc 3 \bigcirc \bigcirc 4 \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc 5 \bigcirc 6 \bigcirc 7 \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc \bigcirc 8 \bigcirc 9 \bigcirc 10 \bigcirc Ο

The mushroom you can see is also known as a macroscopic fungus, or a fruiting body.

The Saffron milk cap is a mushroom that grows in meadows during the winter.

Fungi reproduce through thousands of spores.

The body of a fungus is made up of thousands of small threads known as a mycelium.

We can find fungi in every environment on the planet.

Some fungi are edible, but others are poisonous.

The poisonous species are very easy to tell apart from the edible species.

Amanita Phalloides is not a toxic mushroom, so you can eat it.

The only purpose of mushrooms is as food.

If we step on or pull up a poisonous mushroom, we're stopping animals from being poisoned.



Answers:

ΛT





be a good mushroom hunter

We're so happy that you've come to visit us! But to be a good mushroom hunter, it's very important that you look after your surroundings, avoid getting poisoned and have a lot of fun when you eat the mushrooms. So when you go to pick mushrooms, whether today or in the future, make sure you follow these instructions:

- Only pick the species you know and the amount you're actually going to eat. Don't damage the mushrooms that you must NOT pick!
- Don't disturb the soil or use tools that might affect the surface of the soil.
- Only pick whole mushrooms, as they're easier to identify. It's important that you use a knife to cut them at the stalk, and fill in any holes you make. This prevents damage to the mycelium and helps more mushrooms to grow, year after year.
- If you're not sure about a mushroom you've picked, it's better not to eat it (or even better, don't pick it). Ask someone who knows a lot about us.
 - Don't leave us in the fridge for a long time, as we go bad quickly. Make sure you eat us soon after we're picked.
 - Keep learning about mushrooms from the experts. Buy books that will help you get to know us better.

Do you know why the basket is so important? It allows the spores to keep spreading as you walk, and gives us plenty of space among the other mushrooms you've picked. In a bag, mushrooms get squashed and go bad. Now that you know how to be good mushroom hunters, mark the items you really need to pick a good crop of mushrooms!





our adventure's coming to an end

Once you've left your basket, all you need to do is follow the final section of the route, which takes you back to the start. And now that you know a bit more about the mushrooms that are found in Andorra...

🖉 USE A PEN OR A PENCIL

WHAT DO YOU THINK HAPPENS TO THE RUBBISH AND PLASTIC THAT'S LEFT BEHIND IN THE FOREST AFTER AN EXCURSION?

Circle the answer you think is most likely

- a. The mushrooms surround the rubbish, break it down and absorb it as food. This makes them change colour frequently and become rectangular in shape.
- b. The mushroom is unable to absorb the decomposed rubbish, which harms the soil around it.
- c. The animals that live in the forest are like nature's bin lorries: they collect what we throw away and keep the forest clean.

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

Make a suggestion to prevent the soil harm around the mushroom

drawing emotions

Work together to make **a group drawing** of what this experience has meant to you. Tip for explorers: it's better to combine everyone's ideas than to pick just one person's. You can share it on social media using the hashtags **#macarullandorra** and **@andorraworld**. That way, Fungus can see everything you've learned about the mushrooms of Andorra!





to do at home as a family

Carry on the adventure! Register through the Macarulla form and get your official diploma, more information on magical trails and a mushroom activity guide to do at home.



You can also find the form here: https://visitandorra.com/en/macarulla/







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