

Spores/Germinate



Mushrooms grow from spores, not seeds

Spores are how mushrooms reproduce.

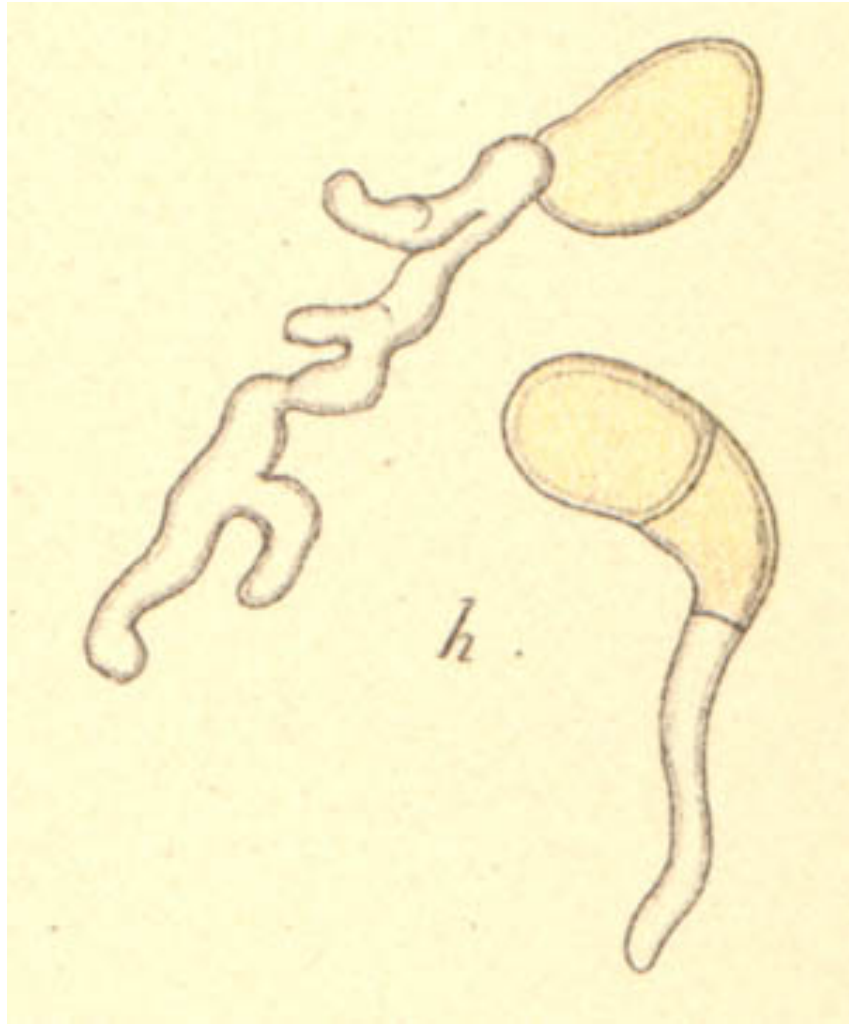
A fully grown mushrooms release spores. The spores travel from the mushroom along the wind currents, and when they land in a moist place, they begin to grow.

A single mushroom can release 16 million spores.

Spores are very hard to see unless you have a microscope.

Fun fact: Every year, fungi make 50 million tons of spores, that is enough to coat every square millimeter of Earth's surface with 1,000 spores each.

Hyphane (seedlings)



As tiny spores begin to grow, and they grow fine white fibers called **hyphae**.

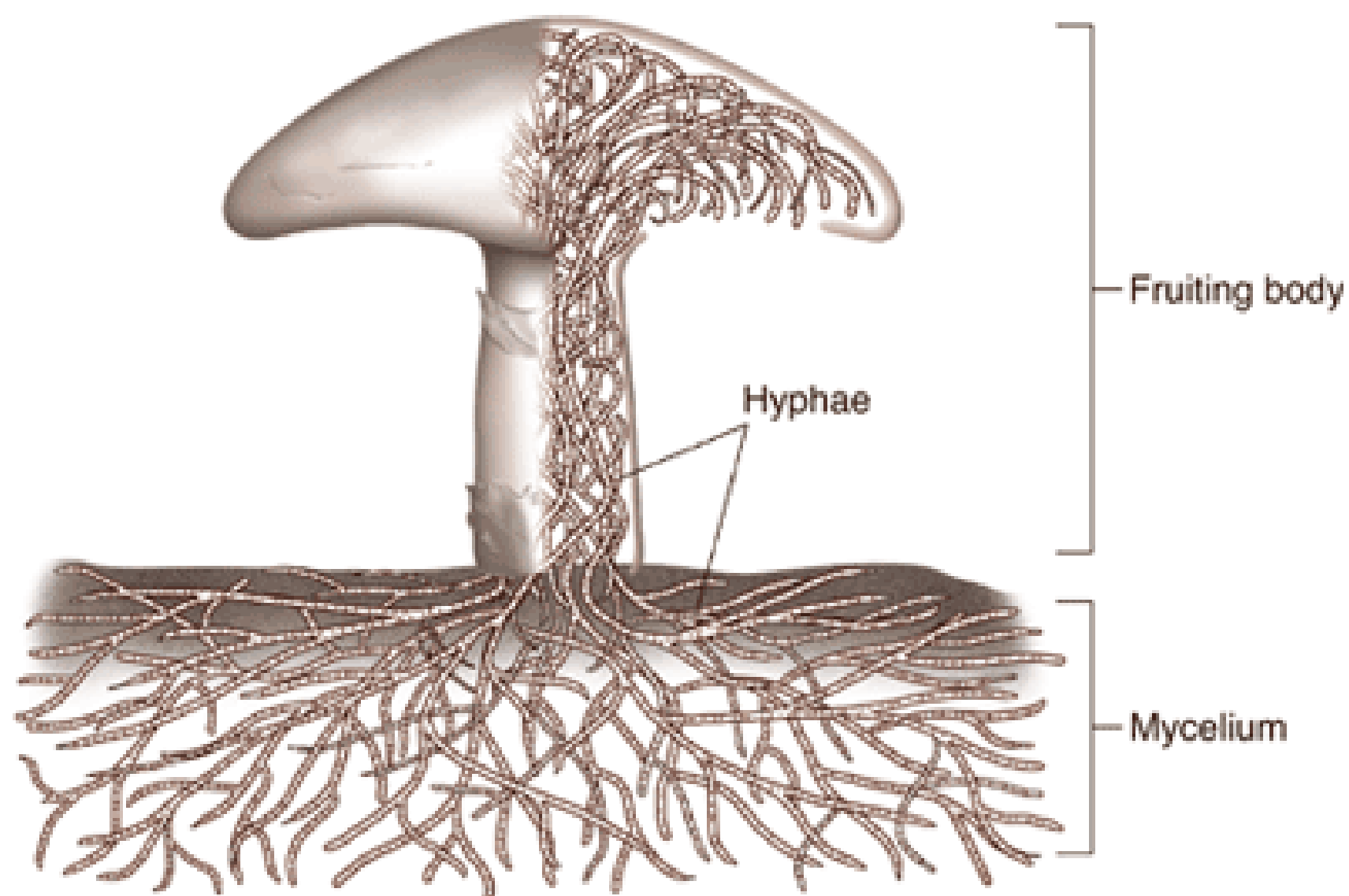
Hyphae is the "underground" part of the mushroom.

Hyphae are not the mushrooms roots.

Hyphae is the living and growing part of a mushroom.

Fun fact: Hyphae can add half a mile of thread each day!

Hyphae meet



For a mushroom to grow, a male and female hyphae must join.

It then begins to grow quickly. All that growing takes nourishment. Mushrooms feed on tiny bits of plant material to grow.

The hyphae grow new cells very quickly, forming roots, called mycelium.

Mycelium (roots)



Mycelium is made up of a lot of super-thin threads.

The Mycelium is the roots of the mushroom. It is usually underground

Mycelium helps the mushrooms clean up plant waste and make the soil richer.

Eventually the mycelium pushes the mushroom open to reveal the shape and parts we see above ground.

It is through the mycelium that the mushroom absorbs nutrients from its environment.

Primordia (baby mushrooms)



Primordia looks like a white fluff or a piece of cotton wool when it first comes out of the ground.

At first they appear in the form of small dots, the size of a poppy seed, then they grow to the size of a pin head.

They then look more like miniature baby mushrooms.

Eventually the primordia grow into full-sized mushrooms.

Mushrooms (fruit)



The baby mushrooms grow and turn into mature mushrooms (fruit).

The Mushroom that comes above the ground is a fruiting body. It consists of a stem and a cap.

When picking the mushrooms, twist gently in a rotation direction.

If mushrooms are left in the soil, the mushrooms release spores from the gills on the underside of the cap.

The whole cycle of life begins once more.