



# Mushroom TEST



*Spring* is a great time to see mushrooms! These exciting organisms can be found growing almost anywhere. Let's see how much you know about the fungus that grows among us.

*Research* anything that you may have gotten wrong or that interests you.

*Remember* don't pick any mushrooms in the park and NEVER eat wild mushrooms!

On the next page is a spore print activity. Share your findings using [#AtHomeInNature](#)

1. The largest organism on the planet is a mushroom. *(circle one)* True or False
2. Giant puffball mushrooms can reach the size of which common object. *(circle one)*  

Golf Ball	Grapefruit	Basketball
-----------	------------	------------
3. Generally speaking, what percentage of a mushroom is water? *(circle one)*  

50%	70%	90%
-----	-----	-----
4. Some mushrooms glow in the dark. *(circle one)* True or False
5. Dryads saddle mushrooms were said to be a seat for what mythical creature? *(circle one)*  

Fairy	Elf	Tree Nymph
-------	-----	------------
6. Mushrooms were once commonly used as writing ink. *(circle one)* True or False
7. Scientists have discovered a mushroom that eats plastic. *(circle one)* True or False
8. Poisonous mushrooms were once added to milk to kill what pest? *(circle one)*  

Mice	Flies	Mosquitoes
------	-------	------------
9. The world's most expensive mushroom is? *(circle one)*  

Chanterelle	Morel	Truffle
-------------	-------	---------
10. Do you like mushrooms on your pizza? *(circle one)* Yes or No

Answers: 1. True, 2. Basketball, 3. 90%, 4. True, 5. Tree Nymph, 6. True, 7. True, 8. Flies, 9. Truffles



# Spore PRINT

One method that helps in the identification of mushrooms is to make a spore print. Some mushrooms look very similar but differ in the color of their spores.

*To make a spore print:*

1. Remove the cap from a mature, fresh specimen. Be sure it is dry.
2. Turn it gill side down on a piece of white paper (some people recommend both black and white paper since the spores can be dark or light).
3. Cover the cap with a plastic cup or glass to protect it and let it sit undisturbed for 24 hours or overnight.
4. Lift up the cap carefully to reveal the pattern of spores left on the paper. Compare your results with descriptions given in field guides.

