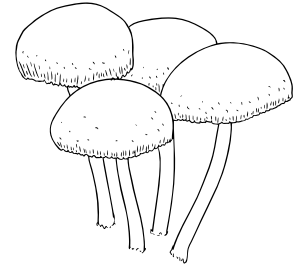


# HOW TO MAKE A MUSHROOM SPORE PRINT

## What are spores?

Spores are small reproductive structures that are important in the life cycles of fungi, including mushrooms! They are often found underneath the mushroom cap. Spore prints can be used for growing new mushrooms, identification, or art!



## See spores by making a spore print!

- 1** Find a mushroom in your backyard or neighbourhood. Be sure to pick a mushroom that is alive and mature so the prints turn out. Wear gloves when handling mushrooms!
- 2** Carefully remove the mushroom stem and place the mushroom cap, gills down, on a white piece of paper.
- 3** Put a few small drops of water on the mushroom cap. This will help ensure that the mushroom does not dry out.
- 4** Cover the mushroom cap with a cup, bowl or container and leave it alone for 12-24 hours. The spores will release on the paper and make a spore print. Spray with hair spray or an aerosol fixative to preserve your work of art!



Photo: North American Mycological Association