

# FACTivity



## Time Needed

40 minutes

## Materials

- Blank sheet of paper
- Pencil
- “The Morel of the Story” article, including this FACTivity
- A mushroom or two to three species of mushrooms with stalk (if possible) from a grocery store (shiitake mushrooms if available)



In this FACTivity, you will examine the parts of a mushroom. Although different mushroom species may look different, they have similar parts. Think about what a mushroom looks like. Based on your knowledge of what a mushroom looks like, what is one question you want to answer about mushrooms? You will

answer your question by examining a real mushroom, comparing it to the mushroom photos in this FACTivity, and doing additional research about mushrooms on the Internet or in the Media Center. Write your question on a piece of paper or in the space below. Be sure to use proper grammar, punctuation, and spelling.

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# Method

You will work independently. First, examine your mushroom. You may use a plastic knife to cut your mushroom into two halves lengthwise, including the stalk. Draw your mushroom on the sheet of paper. Using the diagram on page 13, identify the parts of your mushroom. Write the parts on your drawing, with a line from each part-name to the part.

Now, examine the mushroom photos on pages 20-21. Compare your mushroom drawing with the photographs. Now take some time to research your question in books, on the Internet, or in the Media Center. Based on your comparison and your research, write the answer to your question on your paper.

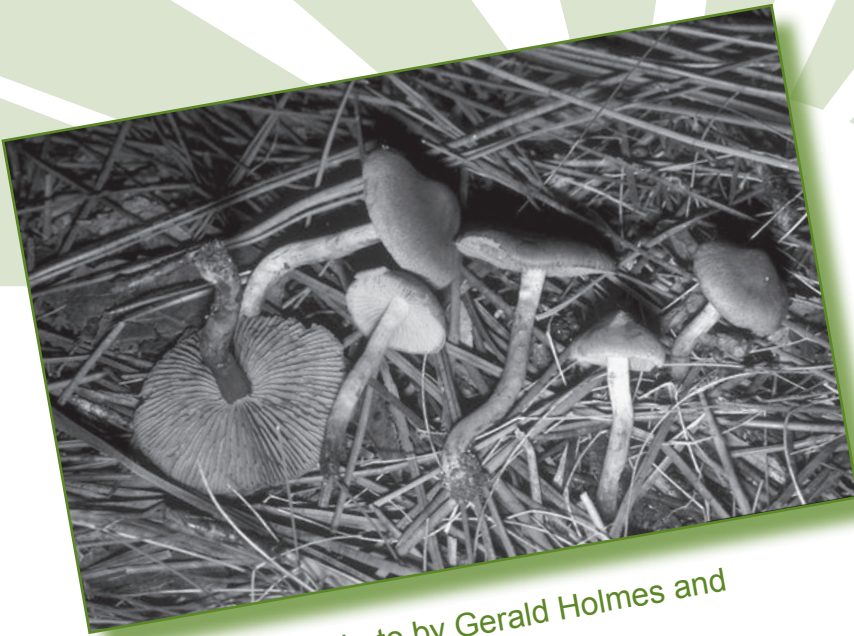
Now, using your mushroom drawing as a guide, identify the parts of mushrooms in the photographs. Compare the mushrooms. What are two similarities between all mushroom species? What are two differences between some mushroom species?



**Figure (a).** Photo by Norman D. Davis and courtesy of <http://www.bugwood.org>.



**Figure (b).** Photo by Norman D. Davis and courtesy of <http://www.bugwood.org>.



**Figure (c).** Photo by Gerald Holmes and courtesy of <http://www.bugwood.org>.



**Figure (d).** Photo by Norman D. Davis and courtesy of <http://www.bugwood.org>.



**Figure (e).** Photo by Babs McDonald.



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**Figure (f).** Photo by Chris Evans, Illinois Wildlife Action Plan, and courtesy of <http://www.bugwood.org>.