



Create incredible mushroom  
spore prints



### What you need:

- 1 fresh mushroom (large or chestnut mushrooms work well)
- White paper and black paper (to see different coloured spores)
- A glass or bowl
- A pair of scissors or butter knife (ask an adult for help!)

### What to do:

1. Carefully cut the stem off the mushroom so only the cap is left.
2. Place the mushroom cap gills-down (the frilly underside) onto half white and half black paper.
3. Put a glass or bowl over the mushroom to keep it from drying out.
4. Leave it for 6–12 hours (overnight is best).
5. Lift the cap and look closely at the paper – you should see a beautiful spore print pattern like a flower!

### What's happening?

Mushrooms don't make seeds like plants. Instead, they release millions of tiny spores from their gills. The spores float through the air and, if they land in the right place, they can grow into new fungi.

This is super visual and feels a bit magical - we love seeing the delicate spore "flowers" appear

