

Fungi Trivia: Questions, Answers, and Facts
Printable Trivia Pack

Fungi trivia spotlights a vast kingdom of organisms that includes mushrooms, molds, and yeasts, long important to ecosystems, food, and medicine. From ancient fermentation and traditional foraging to modern discoveries about fungal networks and antibiotics, it offers a mix of approachable facts, playful surprises, and deeper challenges for curious readers.

HARD FUNGI TRIVIA

1. Which researcher was the one who observed the mold later linked to penicillin in 1928?

Answer: Alexander Fleming

2. In the 1945 Nobel recognition connected to turning penicillin into a medicine, which laureate was Howard Florey?

Answer: Howard Florey

3. Which 19th-century scientist studied fermentation involving yeast?

Answer: Louis Pasteur

4. Which Italian publisher is associated with illustrated mushroom works?

Answer: Giuseppe Ingegnoli

5. The ergot fungus notorious for infecting rye is which species?

Answer: *Claviceps purpurea*

6. Which species is used to make Roquefort cheese?

Answer: *Penicillium roqueforti*

7. Which fungus causes gray mold on many plants?

Answer: *Botrytis cinerea*

8. Stem rust in wheat is caused by what fungus?

Answer: *Puccinia graminis*

9. Which corn-infecting fungus also shows up on the menu as huitlacoche?

Answer: *Ustilago maydis*

10. Which fungal species can cause the lung disease histoplasmosis?

Answer: *Histoplasma capsulatum*

11. Valley fever is caused in part by which fungus listed here?

Answer: *Coccidioides immitis*

12. In immunocompromised patients, which fungus can cause pneumonia?

Answer: *Pneumocystis jirovecii*

13. Which species is a common cause of athlete's foot?

Answer: *Trichophyton rubrum*

14. Button, cremini, and portobello are all market forms of which single species?

Answer: *Agaricus bisporus*

FUNNY FUNGI TRIVIA

1. Which fungi basically announced themselves by being named for their strong smell?

Answer: Stinkhorn fungi are named for their strong smell.

2. If someone says 'dog stinkhorn' at a nature walk, which fungus name are they referring to?

Answer: Dog stinkhorn is a common name for *Mutinus caninus*.

3. What is another common name for maitake that makes it sound like woodland poultry?

Answer: Hen of the woods is another common name for maitake.

4. Which fungus can ooze red droplets, as if it is auditioning for a low-budget vampire movie?

Answer: Bleeding tooth fungus can ooze red droplets.

5. Which fungi open into star-like rays, as if the ground decided to make its own origami?

Answer: Earthstar fungi open into star-like rays.

6. Tiny nests with tiny eggsâ but fungal. What are they called?

Answer: Bird's nest fungi look like tiny nests with eggs.

7. True or false: 'Hairy curtain crust' is an invented prank name and not a real fungus common name.?

Answer: False

8. Which mushroom can age into a black liquid, turning itself into nature's least practical pen?

Answer: Shaggy ink cap mushrooms can dissolve into a black liquid as they age.

9. Despite the seafood-sounding name, what refers to a fungus-infected mushroom that turns reddish-orange?

Answer: The name lobster mushroom refers to a fungus-infected mushroom that turns reddish-orange.

10. Which rare fungus found in Texas and Japan splits open like a star, while sounding like something a cartoon villain would smoke?

Answer: Devil's cigar is a rare Texas and Japan fungus that splits open like a star.

11. A monkey-face orchid is not a fungus, but monkey-face names are common in what area connected to fungi?

Answer: They are common in fungi folklore.

12. Which stinkhorn grows several red arms from a single base, like a sea creature that got lost in the woods?

Answer: Octopus stinkhorn grows several red arms from a single base.

13. What stinkhorn wears a lacy skirt-like net beneath its cap, basically arriving in full formalwear?

Answer: Veiled lady stinkhorn grows a lacy skirt-like net beneath its cap.

FUN FUNGI TRIVIA

1. Which documentary invites viewers into the hidden world of mushrooms and mycelium?

Answer: Fantastic Fungi

2. Merlin Sheldrake wrote which 2020 book about fungi?

Answer: Entangled Life

3. If someone tells you to pick up Paul Stamets' book Mycelium Running, what title are they naming?

Answer: Mycelium Running

4. Which field guide by David Arora has the wonderfully confident title Mushrooms Demystified?

Answer: Mushrooms Demystified

5. Peter McCoy wrote which fungi-focused book with a bold title?

Answer: Radical Mycology

6. What mushroom book by David Arora sounds like a weather forecast with a side quest: Rain Promises and More?

Answer: Rain Promises

7. Who wrote The Mushroom at the End of the World?

Answer: Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing

8. Before generations met Peter Rabbit, which famous author also studied fungi and made detailed mushroom illustrations?

Answer: Beatrix Potter

9. Which natural history artist included fungi in some of her artwork?

Answer: Maria Sibylla Merian

10. Name the prominent modern writer and speaker on mushrooms whose name pops up often in fungi conversations.?

Answer: Paul Stamets

11. Who helped popularize the study of mushroom use in culture?

Answer: Gordon Wasson

12. Which researcher collaborated with Gordon Wasson on mushroom research?

Answer: Valentina Pavlovna Wasson

13. The red-and-white mushroom that keeps showing up in fantasy and game art is usually which one?

Answer: fly agaric

FUNGI FAMILY TRIVIA

1. What yeast is commonly used in baking bread?

Answer: *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* is commonly used in baking bread.

2. Which mushrooms send out little clouds when they are mature?

Answer: Puffball mushrooms release clouds of spores when mature.

3. What kind of fungi often grow like brackets sticking out from tree trunks?

Answer: Shelf fungi often grow like brackets on tree trunks.

4. Oyster mushrooms got their name from the shape of what part?

Answer: They are named for their oyster-shaped caps.

5. Which mushroom is known for having long, thin stems?

Answer: Enoki is known for its long thin stems.

6. If you spot a mushroom that is often bright yellow or orange, which one might it be?

Answer: It might be a chanterelle.

7. Which cheese is ripened with white mold: Camembert or Slovenia?

Answer: Camembert is ripened with white mold.

8. Many fungi reproduce by releasing what tiny particles?

Answer: Many fungi reproduce by releasing spores.

9. What do you call circles of mushrooms that can appear in lawns?

Answer: They are called fairy rings.

10. What name is given to the helpful underground partnerships between many tree roots and fungi?

Answer: They are called mycorrhizae.

11. Which fungus can be white and round like a ball?

Answer: The giant puffball can be white and round like a ball.

12. Despite its funny name, which fungus is a bright orange bracket fungus?

Answer: Chicken of the woods is a bright orange bracket fungus.

EASY FUNGI TRIVIA

1. What ingredient helps bread rise when making a loaf?

Answer: Yeast helps bread rise.

2. Penicillin was discovered from what kind of fungus source in 1928?

Answer: Penicillin was discovered from a mold.

3. What is the threadlike network that forms much of a fungus called?

Answer: It is called mycelium.

4. Which fungi are commonly used as food in many cuisines?

Answer: Mushrooms are commonly used as food in many cuisines.

5. Which mushroom gets its name from its shaggy white look?

Answer: Lion's mane mushroom.

6. The blue veins in blue cheese come from what?

Answer: They come from mold.

7. Where do truffles grow?

Answer: Truffles grow underground.

8. Which mushrooms are known for their honeycomb-like caps?

Answer: Morels.

9. Which mushroom is famous for a red cap with white spots?

Answer: Amanita muscaria.

10. Which mushroom is widely used in East Asian cooking?

Answer: Shiitake mushrooms.

11. What kind of mushroom is often sold white in grocery stores?

Answer: Button mushroom.

12. Portobello mushrooms are mature versions of what?

Answer: Cremini mushrooms.

13. What Italian place is famous for white truffles?

Answer: Alba in Italy.

Source: <https://triviagong.com/themes/fungi>