



Mushroom Riddles



30 riddles from easy to tricky. Write your answer on the line. Answers are on the last page.

Easy riddles ★

- 1 I'm soft and slimy, I have no shell, and on damp fall nights I slide across the forest floor to munch on mushrooms. What am I?

ANSWER _____

- 2 I'm the round top of a mushroom, like a little umbrella or a hat. What am I called?

ANSWER _____

- 3 I hold the mushroom's top up off the ground, like the stick of a lollipop. What am I?

ANSWER _____

- 4 Flip a mushroom over and you'll see thin flaps lined up like the pages of a book under my cap. A fish has a part with the same name. What am I?

ANSWER _____

- 5 A mushroom doesn't make seeds. Instead, it drops millions of me, so tiny you can only see me as a dusty cloud. What am I?

ANSWER _____

- 6 What room has no doors, no windows and no walls?

ANSWER _____

- 7 Why did the mushroom get invited to every party?

ANSWER _____

- 8 Fairy tales draw me with a red cap and white spots, and a frog or a gnome might sit on top of me. What's my storybook name?

ANSWER _____

- 9 Mushrooms pop up most after this kind of weather, especially in the fall. What is it?

ANSWER _____

- 10 I'm a forest animal who gathers mushrooms in fall. I even hang some on tree branches to dry, then save them for winter. What am I?

ANSWER _____

Medium riddles ★★

- 11 I'm not a plant and I'm not an animal. Mushrooms, molds and yeasts all belong to my kingdom. What am I?

ANSWER _____

- 12 Under the ground and inside rotting logs, I spread out as a web of thin white threads. The mushroom is just my "fruit." What am I?

ANSWER _____

- 13 I break down dead leaves, fallen trees and old logs, and turn them back into soil. Without me, the forest would be buried in dead stuff. What job do I have?

ANSWER _____

- 14 Mushrooms sometimes grow in a big circle on the lawn. Old stories said tiny magical people danced there at night. What is the circle called?

ANSWER _____

- 15 I'm round and white, and I have no gills. When a raindrop hits me or someone steps on me, I puff out a cloud of brown spores like smoke. What am I?

ANSWER _____

- 16 Put a mushroom cap gills-down on a sheet of paper and leave it overnight. In the morning, you find a pattern like a star. What is it?

ANSWER _____

- 17 I don't have a stem. I stick straight out of the side of a tree trunk like a little shelf. What am I?

ANSWER _____

- 18 Plants are green because they have me, and I help them make food from sunlight. Mushrooms don't have me, so they get their food another way. What am I?

ANSWER _____

- 19 I'm a fungus so small you can't see me, but bakers use me every day. I make bread dough puff up and rise. What am I?

ANSWER _____

- 20 I'm the scientist who studies mushrooms and other fungi. What am I called?

ANSWER _____

Tricky riddles ★★ ★

- 21 I'm a mushroom that grows underground near tree roots. You can't see me, so dogs and pigs sniff me out, and chefs pay a lot for me. What am I?

ANSWER _____

- 22 I'm a famous mushroom with a bright red cap and white spots. I look like a storybook toadstool, but I'm poisonous. What am I?

ANSWER _____

- 23 Some fungi growing on rotting wood give off a soft green glow in the dark. People long ago gave this glow a name that sounds like a sly animal plus flames. What is it?

ANSWER _____

- 24 Fungus threads wrap around tree roots and pass water and minerals to the trees. The trees pay them back with sugar. What is this hidden underground network nicknamed?

ANSWER _____

- 25 In a forest in Oregon, a single fungus spreads underground across an area bigger than 1,000 soccer fields. It's one of the largest living things on Earth. What kind of fungus is it?

ANSWER _____

- 26 In 1928, a scientist noticed that a blue-green mold had stopped bacteria from growing in a dish. It led to one of the first antibiotic medicines. What was the medicine?

ANSWER _____

- 27 A small white mushroom and a big brown portobello look different, but they're the same species. What is the small white one usually called?

ANSWER _____

- 28 A mushroom is to a fungus what an apple is to a what?

ANSWER _____

- 29 Scientists have found that fungi are more closely related to one group than they are to plants. Which group?

ANSWER _____

- 30 Mushrooms are mostly made of me. That's why they shrink so much when you cook them. What am I?

ANSWER _____

Answers

Mushroom Riddles · answer key · print or fold this page away before you hand out the sheet

1. **A slug.** Many slugs love to eat mushrooms.
2. **The cap**
3. **The stem** (also called the stalk)
4. **Gills**
5. **Spores**
6. **A mushroom.** It's a classic: mush-ROOM.
7. **Because he was a fun guy.**
8. **A toadstool**
9. **Rain.** Fungi need lots of moisture to grow mushrooms.
10. **A squirrel.** Red squirrels really do dry mushrooms on branches.
11. **Fungi** (the fungus kingdom)
12. **Mycelium**
13. **A decomposer**
14. **A fairy ring.** The mycelium grows outward from the middle, so the mushrooms pop up around its edge.
15. **A puffball**
16. **A spore print.** Its color helps experts tell mushrooms apart.
17. **A bracket fungus** (also called a shelf fungus)
18. **Chlorophyll**
19. **Yeast**
20. **A mycologist**
21. **A truffle**
22. **The fly agaric**
23. **Foxfire.** Fungi that make their own light are called bioluminescent.
24. **The wood wide web**
25. **A honey fungus**
26. **Penicillin.** Alexander Fleming discovered it.
27. **A button mushroom.** A portobello is the same kind, just grown bigger and older.
28. **An apple tree.** The mushroom is the fruit, and the main fungus lives on underground.
29. **Animals**
30. **Water**

Need a hint? Every riddle has one at riddlepedia.com/mushroom-riddles/, where you can also play them as a game.