

# Get to Know: Spring Mushrooms

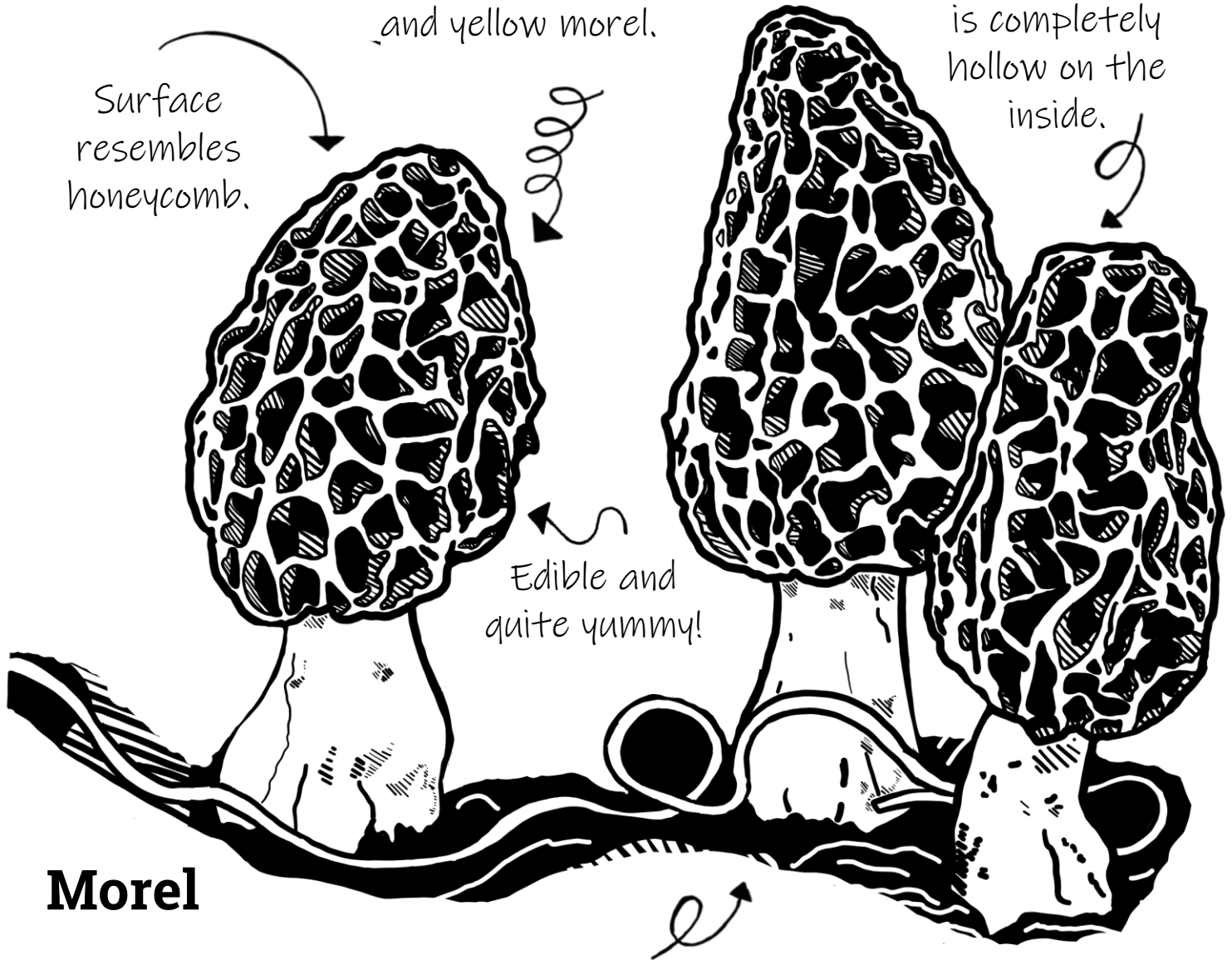
There are many spring mushrooms that grow in our eastern forests. One of the most well known is the edible Morel Mushroom.

Two common varieties in Ohio, the black morel and yellow morel.

A true morel is completely hollow on the inside.

Surface resembles honeycomb.

Edible and quite yummy!



**Morel**

One of the first mushrooms to appear in the spring. Found in April and May in Ohio.

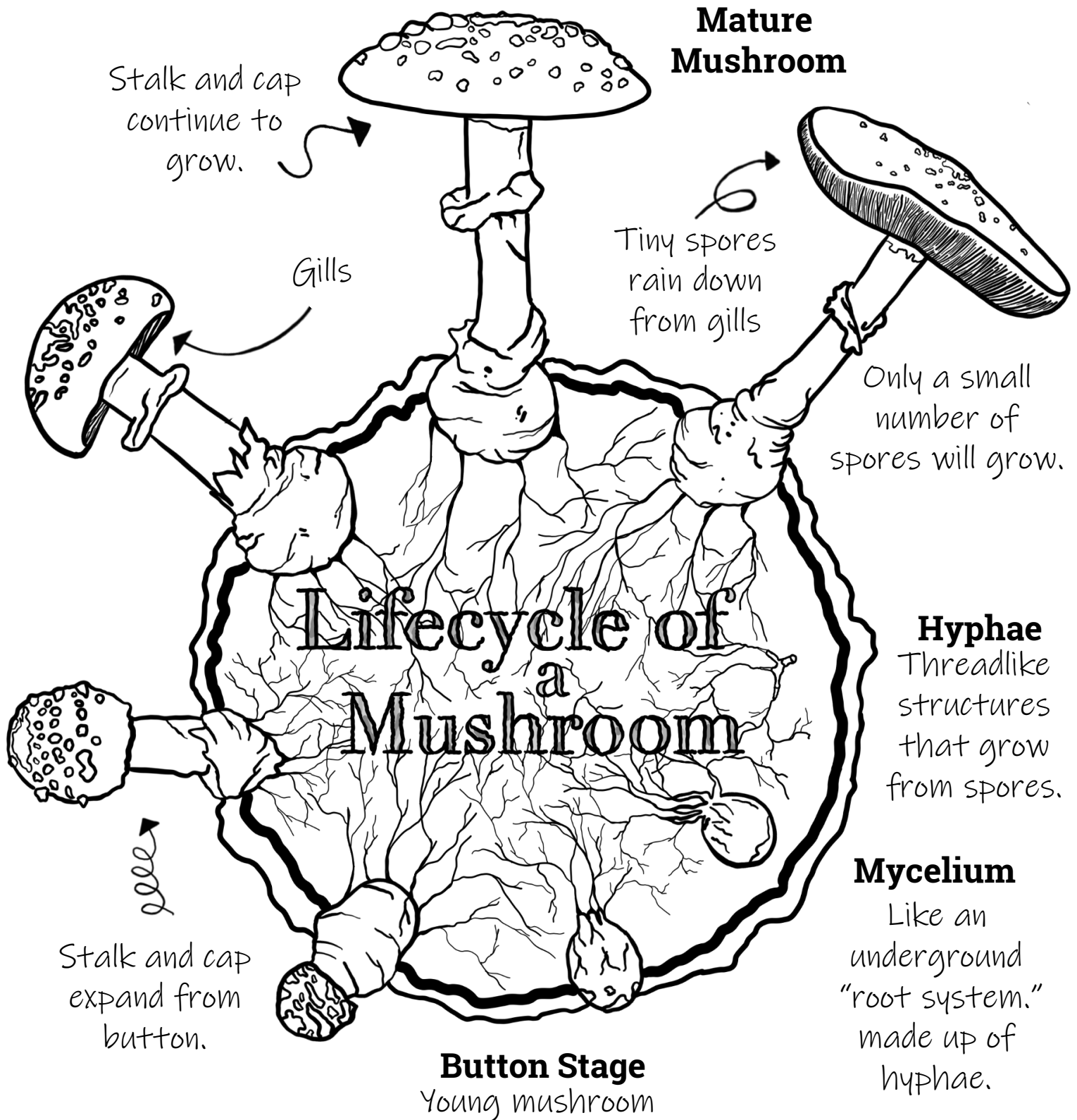


**For more visit:** [www.FairfieldCountyParks.org](http://www.FairfieldCountyParks.org)



# What is a Mushroom?

A mushroom is a fruiting body of a fungi. Just like a tree produces fruit that has seeds, a fungus produces a mushroom, that has hundreds of thousands of tiny spores.



# Common Spring Mushrooms



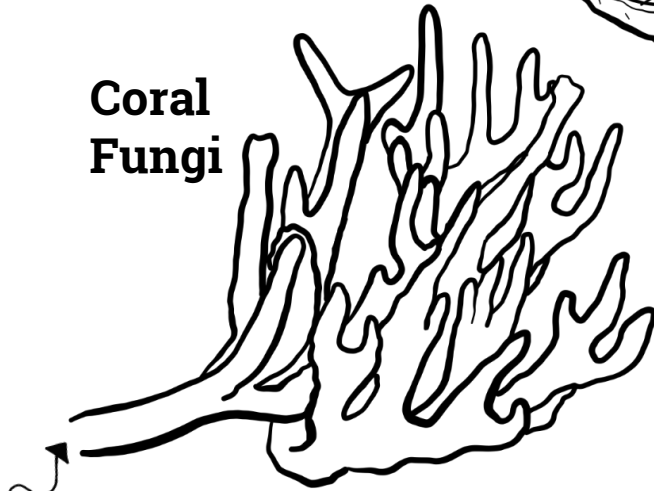
Color in these common Ohio mushrooms, then go for a hike and see how many you can find!



**Scarlet Cap**

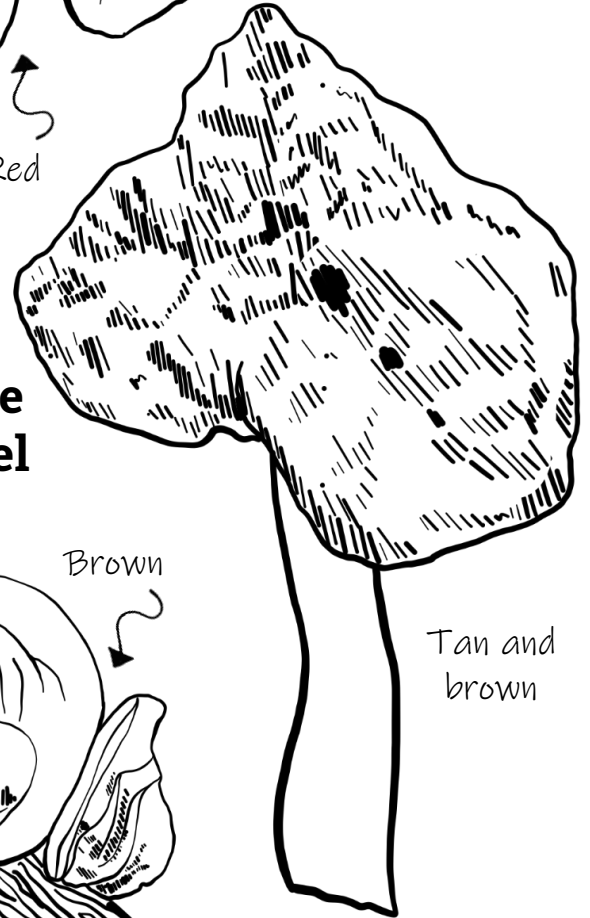
Red

**Coral Fungi**



White, orange or purple

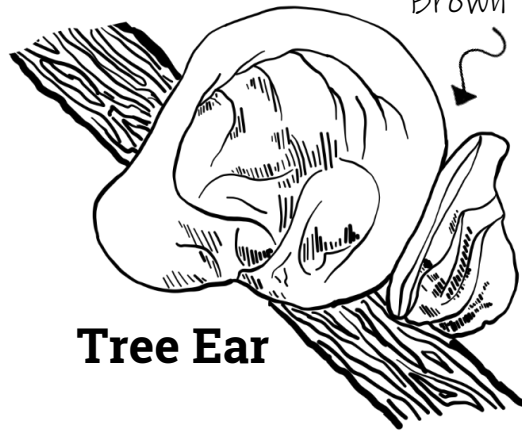
**False Morel**



Tan and brown

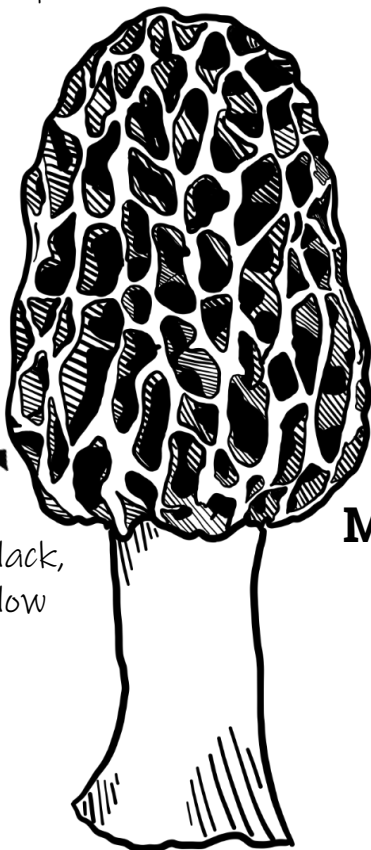
Brown

**Tree Ear**



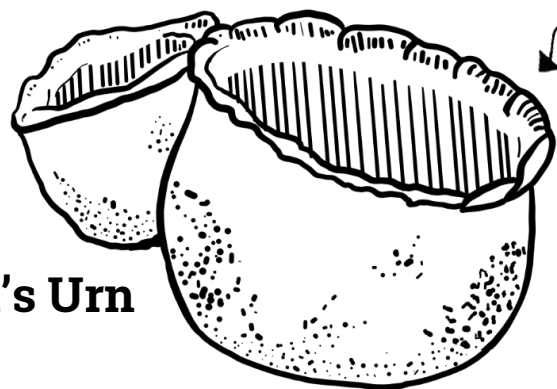
Tan, black, or yellow

**Morel**



Black

**Devil's Urn**



# Mushroom Activities



## Find the Elusive Morel Mushroom

Use these tips to find a Morel Mushroom of your own!

Always remember to use a field guide and an adult expert to properly identify any mushroom, and cook before you eat!



- 1) Hunt for Morels after a warm spring rain. Look in forests, along river banks and flood plains. Be sure you have permission, many parks have rules against mushroom hunting.
- 2) Use a mesh collecting bag like an onion sack.
- 3) Once you find one, pinch off the stem at ground level. Always look around in the same area for more!
- 4) Make sure your morel is completely hollow on the inside, and do not eat them raw!

## Make a Spore Print

### Things Needed:

- Mushroom
- An adult
- Thick paper (any color)
- Hairspray
- Knife

- 1) Find a mushroom in the wild, or get some from a store. Use one that has gills.
- 2) Cut off the mushroom's stem close to the cap.
- 3) Rest the mushroom on a sheet of paper like an umbrella, with the gills facing down.
- 4) Put a few droplets of water on top of the mushroom. Leave alone for 12 to 24 hours. **Do not touch!**
- 5) The next day, remove mushroom from paper and spray spore print with hairspray. Experiment with different mushrooms to create designs!

