



WildSquare



Make a spore print

Autumn is a great time to look for mushrooms or toadstools. If you've ever tried to keep a picked mushroom or toadstool, you'll know that they just don't last. Either they shrivel up or rot away. Each mushroom produces millions of microscopic spores (the tiny seed-like cells that grow into new mushrooms). Here is how to keep a picture of the fungi you find.

You will need:

- a freshly picked mushroom
- a piece of white card
- a glass that will cover your mushroom
- some hairspray



- 1 Pick a mushroom or toadstool and take it home.
- 2 Carefully break off the long stem, so you are left with the cap or top section.
- 3 Put the cap face down on the white card. Cover the mushroom cap with the glass and leave overnight.
- 4 In the morning, when you remove the glass and lift up the mushroom, you'll find that the spores have landed on your card and left a pattern. You can preserve this by spraying hairspray over the print.

WARNING: some mushrooms and toadstools are poisonous, so always take an adult with you who knows which ones to pick.

Always wash your hands after handling mushrooms or toadstools and never eat them.



www.rspb.org.uk/youth/makeanddo

Go wild in a square near you

www.rspb.org.uk/wildsquare



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of the Royal Society for
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