

Fungi

Mushrooms and mould belong to a group of living things called **fungi** (*singular fungus*).

Fungi are NOT plants because, unlike plants,

- fungi do not have green leaves and hence, **cannot make their own food**.
 - They usually grow on other plants or rotting logs / dead animals so that they can obtain food from them.
 - They can even grow on parts of our bodies which are often damp, warm and covered by clothing to cause an itchy fungal infection. You may have heard of a medical condition called 'Athlete's foot' where fungi grows on the feet of a person who wears socks and shoes for long periods of time.
- fungi do not have flowers, fruit or seeds.
 - They **reproduce from spores**.

However, fungi are living things and as such, need air, water and warmth to grow.

Some examples of fungi are **mushroom**, **mould**, **puff ball**, **bracket fungus** and **yeast**.