

31. Tamarack F

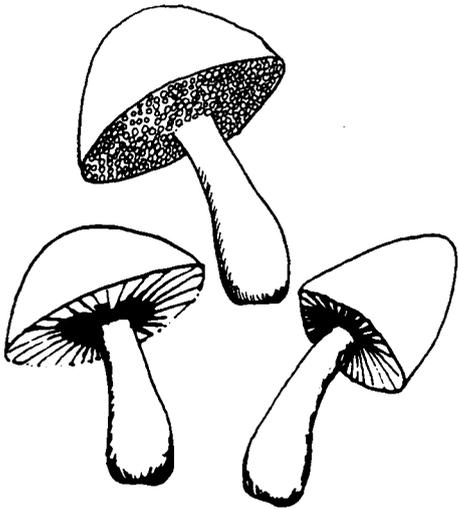
TRAITS: Conifer that sheds its leaves in the fall; needle-like leaves are borne in clusters; bark is gray to brown with shreds and fissures.

HABITAT: Wet, cool climate; sea level to high elevations on most soil types.

FOODS: Makes its own by photosynthesis.

EATEN BY: Squirrels, wood-boring insects, aphids, seed-eating birds (sparrows, redpolls).

“GEE WHIZ”: A certain species of mushroom, the yellow-pored bolete mushroom, grows only with tamaracks; tamaracks depend on certain fungi to help them obtain minerals from the soil.



32. Mushrooms *

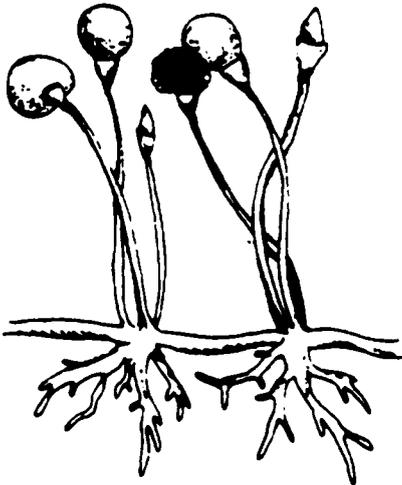
TRAITS: Fungi with fruiting bodies that consist of a stalk and a cap; the undersides of the caps are made up of many slits or tubes.

HABITAT: Soil, litter, rotting logs, and dead vegetation.

FOODS: Mainly dead plant material and animal wastes.

EATEN BY: Lemmings, ground squirrels, fungus gnats.

“GEE WHIZ”: Most fungi that occur in tundra areas, such as the gilled mushroom, are able to grow at lower temperatures than those that occur in warmer environments.



33. Molds, Mildews, and Rusts *

TRAITS: Apparent as a fine powder, fuzz, or furry coating on leaves or other plant parts or animal droppings; or as an abnormal growth.

HABITAT: Dead plants or waste materials, or on living plants or insects.

FOODS: Many feed on dead plant materials, while others live as parasites on plants or insects.

EATEN BY: Springtails, bacteria.

“GEE WHIZ”: Their ability to cease functioning, then resume activities when conditions are favorable, allows them to survive in harsh environments.