

Junior Naturalist's Passport

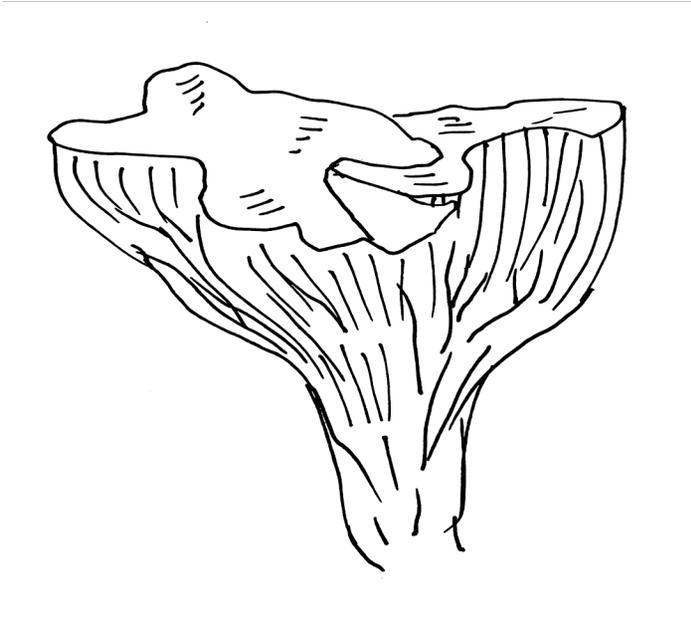
By: _____

Cumberland Fungus Fest 2021



Dear Junior naturalist,

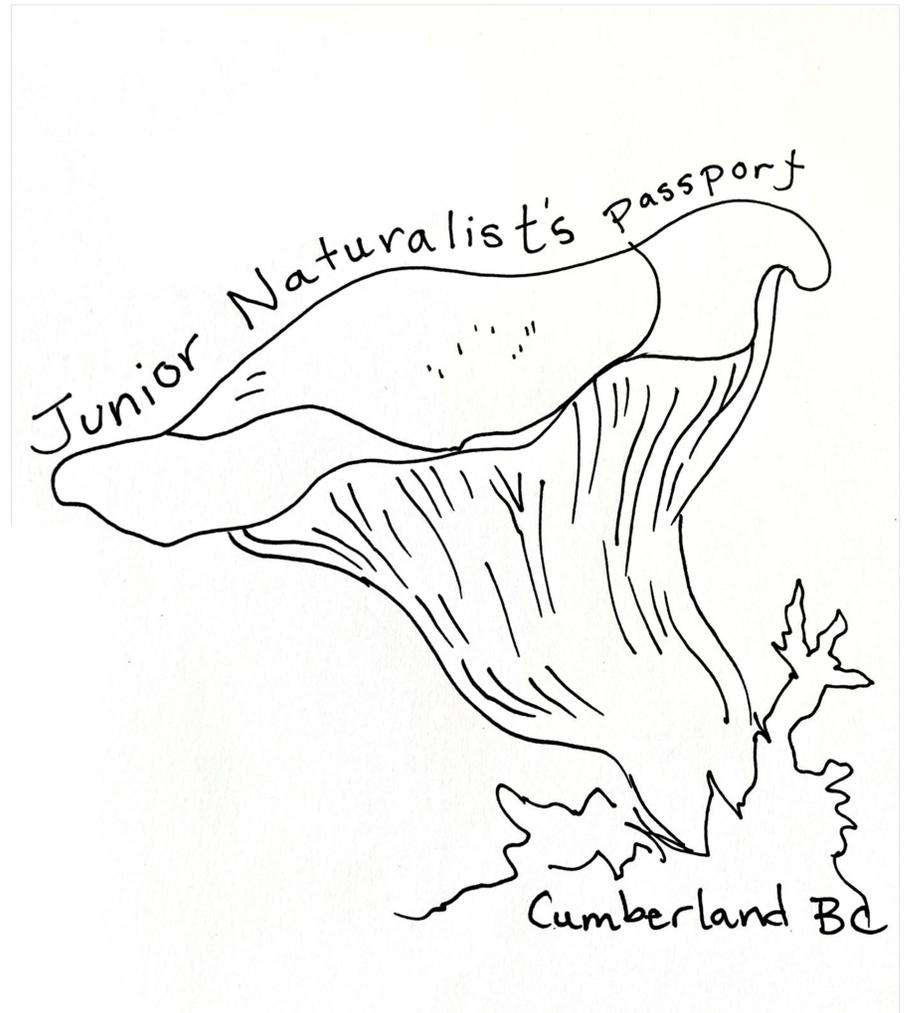
Welcome to nature's great treasure hunt! Check off the challenges as you go. You can do as many or as few as you like.



To the Adult helpers: As you observe with your Junior naturalist, please help us keep the lower trailside mushrooms intact so we can all observe them. If you flip a cap, please leave it nearby so others can observe it. There are some very special mushrooms close to the village, and they are a wonderful gift for us to share with all of our little friends. If you would like to pick mushrooms, I would be happy to share some great spots further out.

Naturalists share their observations with others.
Try sharing what you have seen:

- Tell an adult all about a fungus you saw
- Help your adventure buddy find a fungus
- Tell a forest story!



Fungus comes in many colours! Can you find a fungus that is:

- Purple (Josh's trail, lower swamp trail, miner's cemetery)
- Orange (Powerline, big log, Mama bear)
- White (on logs and trees)
- Brown (In grassy areas)
- Red (swamp trail, lower Comox Lake Park, around Allen Lake)

Some other fun colours you might see:

- Blue (No. 1 , Upper Camp Rd, Spanker)
- Green (Perseverance Trail, BP)
- Pink (Mama Bear, Swamp Trail)
- Transparent (lower Hai Gai)

Naturalists are people who study, observe, and care for nature.

Before they head out, naturalists prepare to be in nature. To get ready:

- Check a map
- Get dressed for the weather with an extra layer in case
- Bring water and a snack
- Choose which equipment you will need to observe (pencil, magnifying glass, mirror, guidebook, and/or phone)
- Ask an adult helper to come on your adventure



Naturalists use their senses to learn about fungus, plants, and animals. You can practice looking, listening, smelling, and feeling to learn about the places that fungus grow.

When the weather is cool and wet, fungus can be found almost everywhere. Some of the best places to look for fungus are cool, dark forests with big trees and thick moss.

Once you find a great fungus:

- Stand very still and close your eyes. What can you hear?

- Sniff the air. What can you smell?

- Feel the soil or wood next to where your mushroom is growing. Is it crumbly, firm, goopy, sandy, slimy?

Some mushrooms have a stem and round cap, but fungus come in many other special shapes. Can you find a:

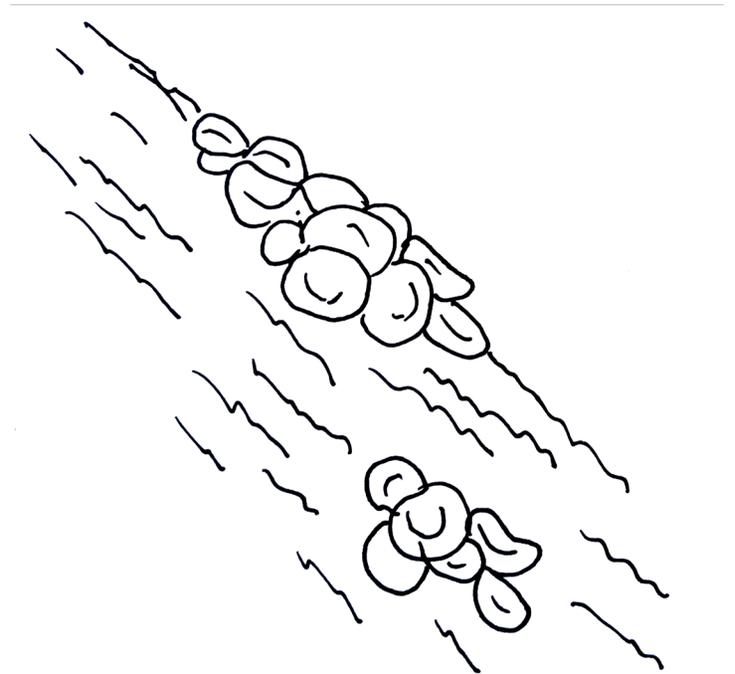
- coral mushroom (Powerline, BP, Mama Bear)
- cup shaped mushroom (often very small, on old wood)
- A round ball with no gills or pores
- fungus crust on a tree
- blob of jelly fungus

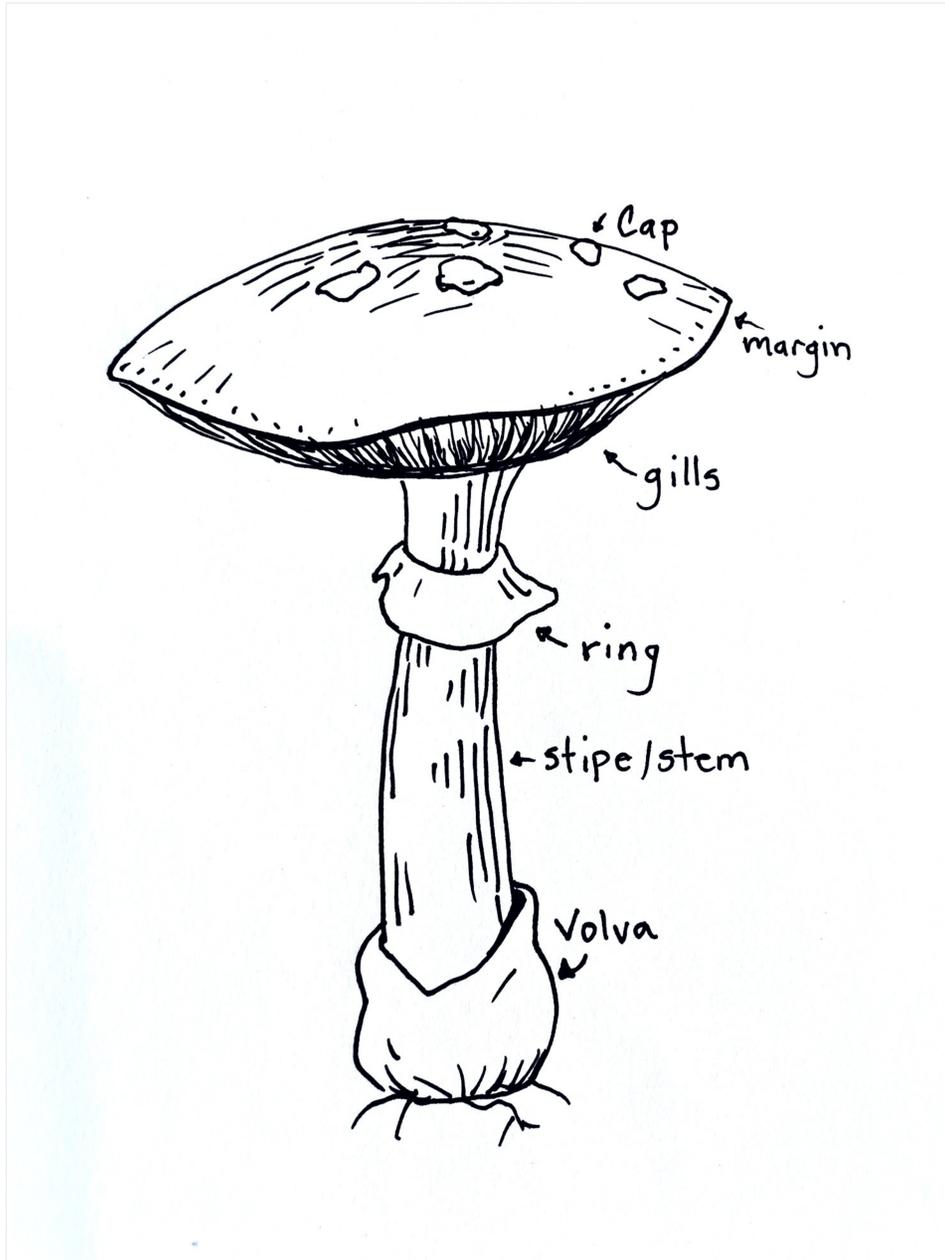
Some other fun shapes to look for:

- A cat's tongue with tiny spikes
- Orange peels
- A big wrinkly raisin

Mushrooms come in many sizes. Can you find a mushroom:

- Bigger than your head (hint- compare to your hat)
- Smaller than your pinky finger
- With a very long stem and a small cap
- With a very short stem and a big cap





Take a peek underneath each mushroom. Sometimes I like to use a mirror. Can you find:

- Spongy Pores that look like cake (Munday's Child, Black hole)
- White gills that look like pages in a book
- Dark Gills that look dirty
- Tiny smooth pores that look like paint (on trees)

Draw an observation: