



Name: ..... Form: .....

Based on pages 4 and 5 of *Microbes*

# Spores and microbes

## Try this...

1. Take a mushroom cap which has opened its gills and examine the gills. On the gills are tiny spores which are too small for you to see.

2. Place the mushroom cap on a piece of paper with its gills facing down. Leave the mushroom cap for 24 hours.

3. While the mushroom cap is on the paper, some of the spores will fall off and land on the paper. The spores will be in such large numbers that you will be able to see where they have landed on the paper. In this space draw how you think the spores will look when you lift up the mushroom cap.

4. When the 24-hour period is over, lift up the mushroom cap and look at how the spores are arranged. Describe how it compares with your prediction.

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5. Spores float in the air. When some types of spores land on suitable food, they grow into moulds. Put samples of fruit and vegetables in separate plastic bags.

6. Look at the sample regularly over the next two weeks (but never open the bags).

7. Make a table to record your observations on a separate sheet of paper.

## Looking at the results.

8. What did your results show?

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