

Living things and their environment

1.1 Fungi

- Fungi have some characteristics of living things. Some of these characteristics are:

1. They grow.
2. They reproduce.
3. They die.

- Some **fungi** include:

- Mushrooms
- Toadstools
- Puffballs
- Yeast
- Moulds

Puffballs



Mushrooms



Economic importance of Fungi

- Yeast is used in baking industry during preparation of bread and doughnut.
- Yeast helps in making the dough.
- Some mushrooms are grown for food.
- Some fungi are used in making medicine such as Penicillin (Penicillium).
- Some fungi help to improve soil fertility by helping in decomposition of dead living things.
- Yeast is used in brewing industries.

Precautions when handling Fungi

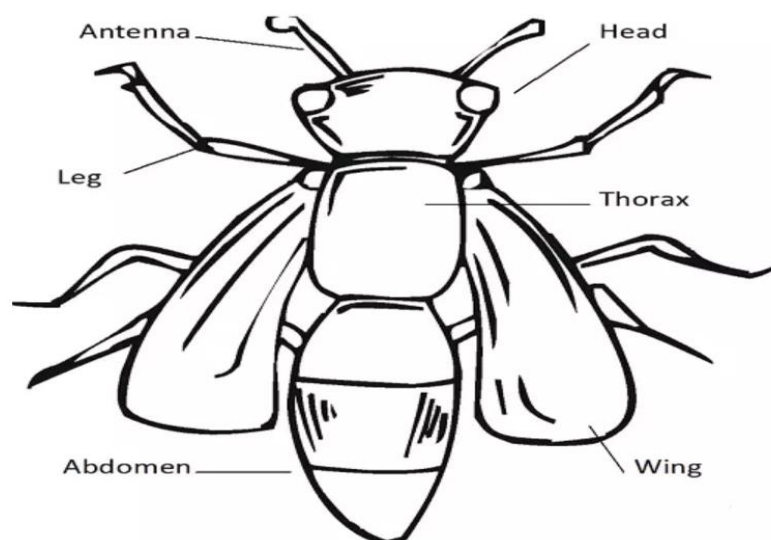
- Bread with moulds should be disposed.
- One should wear gloves when handling fungi.
- Avoid touching harmful fungi with bare hands.
- Wash your hands with soap and water after handling fungi.

1.2 Invertebrates

- **Invertebrates** are animals without backbone.
- Animals with backbones are called **vertebrates**.
- Examples of **invertebrates** include:
 - Insects
 - Spiders and ticks
 - Millipedes and centipedes
 - Snails and slugs
 - Worms
 - Sea invertebrates (octopus, starfish and crabs)

Insects

Observe the picture below of an insect:



Characteristics of Insects

- Insects have six legs (three pairs)
- Insects have three body parts (head, thorax and abdomen).
- Insects have compound eyes.