Fungi

Characteristics of Fungi

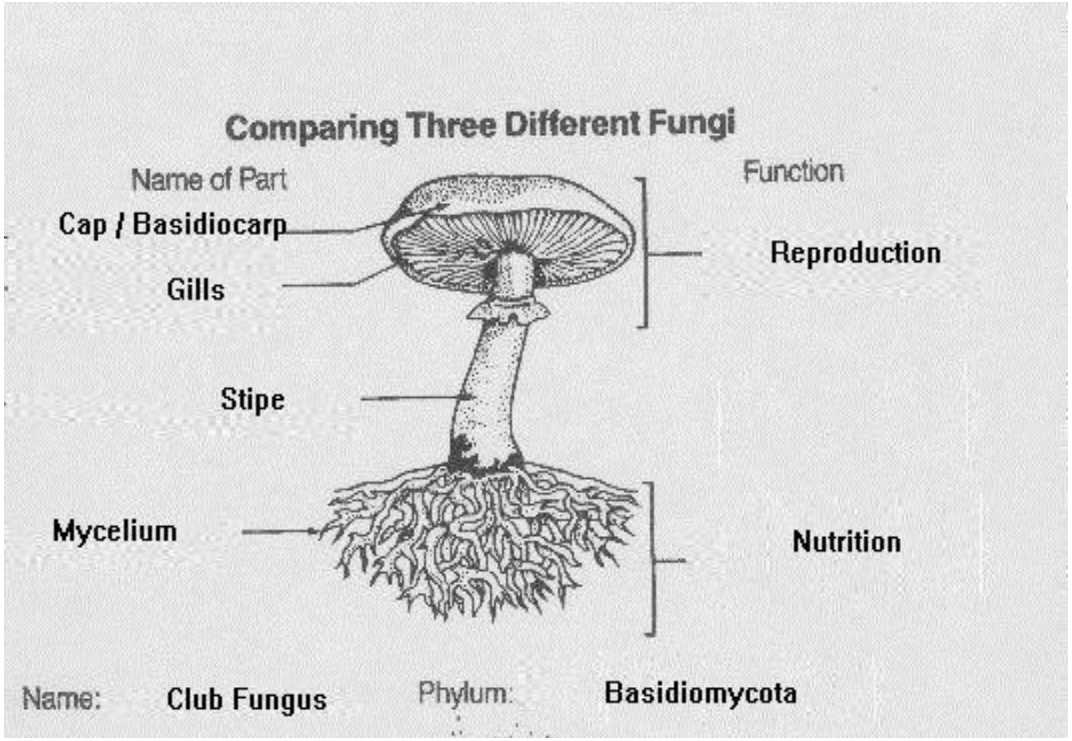
- Eukaryotic---has a nucleus
- Heterotrophs—gets food by eating other organisms
- Rigid cell walls
- No chlorophyll

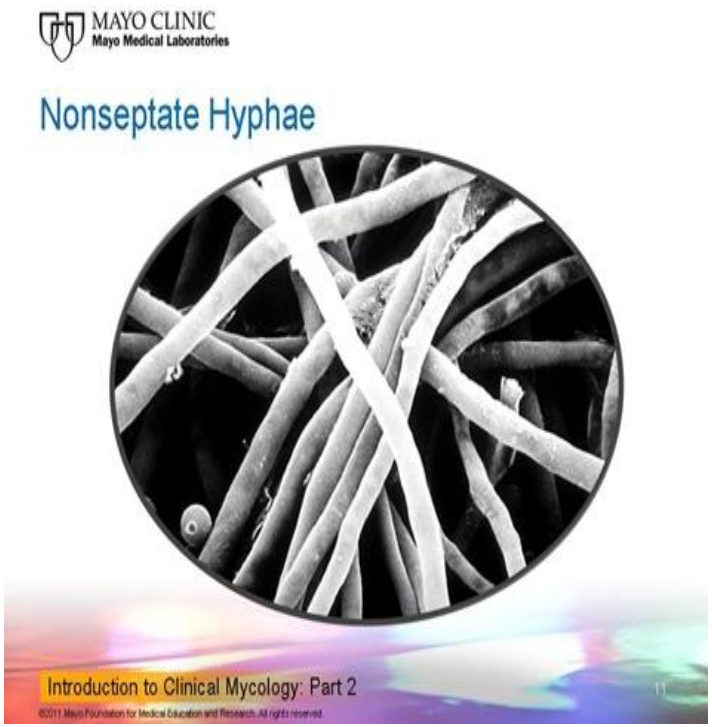
Food for Fungi

- Must live on or near their food supply
- Secrete digestive juices onto food source then absorbing the dissolved food
- Some fungi are decomposers
- Some fungi are parasites

What are fungi made of?

- Hyphae—threadlike fungal filaments.
- Mycelium—twisted mass of hyphae





Kinds of Fungi

- 1. Threadlike
- 2. Sac
- 3. Club
- 4. Nonmushroom Club
- 5. Imperfect

Threadlike Fungi

Most fungi in this group:

- Live in the soil
- Are decomposers
- Example: Bread Mold

Sac Fungi

- This is the largest group of fungi

Includes:

- Yeasts
- Powdery mildews
- Truffles
- morels

Club Fungi

- Umbrella shaped fungi
- Gets its name from structures that the fungi grow during reproduction
- Grow special hyphae called basidia

  -sexual spores develop on the basidia
- Most familiar mushrooms are gill fungi

  -the basidia grow in structures called gills

Nonmushroom club fungi

- Bracket fungi-grow outward from wood and form small shelves
- Puffballs
- Smuts-common plant parasite
- Rusts-common plant parasite

- Bracket

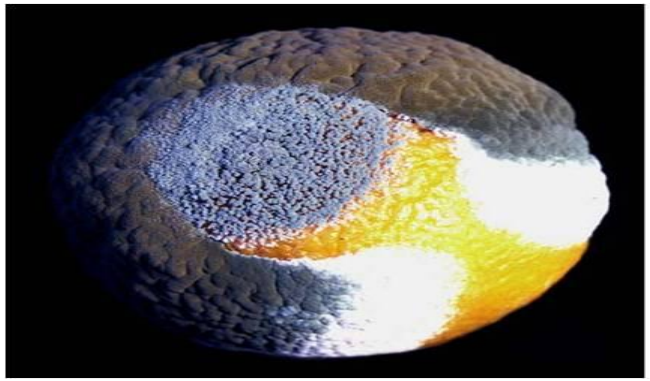
Imperfect Fungi

- Includes all species of fungi that do not quite fit into other groups
- Most are diseases in plants and animals:

  Example: Athletes foot

*Some imperfect fungi are useful:

Examples: penicillium-antiboitic, produce cheeses, soy sauce, and the citric acid used in cola drinks.



Lichens

- Pronounced “Like n’s”
- Combination of fungus and alga that grow together
- Have traits of both fungi and alga
- Grow in almost every type of land environment
- Need only air, light, and minerals to grow.