

Kingdom Fungi

- Yeasts, molds and mushrooms are all part of the Fungi kingdom (and are therefore different from plants, animals, protists and bacteria).
- Fungi are a kind of decomposer.
- Fungi can be microorganisms, but they can also be large, multicellular organisms, like these mushrooms!

Yeasts

Yeasts are tiny fungi that have only one cell. Yeasts can't make their own food like plants do. Without food, yeast looks like a dry powder, and it doesn't look like it is alive. But when you give yeast water and food, it becomes active again.

When you feed yeast with sugar and water, the yeast eats the sugar and makes *carbon dioxide*. The carbon dioxide appears as bubbles. The yeast also makes more yeast, which makes even more carbon dioxide. People use yeast to make bubbles that help bread rise to be light and fluffy.

Make Your Yeast Come Alive

- a. Measure 1 Tablespoon of yeast into a container.
- b. Add 1 cube of sugar to the container. The sugar is the food that the yeast needs to become active.
- c. Carefully pour about $\frac{1}{4}$ cup of warm water (about 105-115° F) to the container.
- d. Mix gently for about 10 seconds.
- e. Now you need to wait about 10 minutes for the yeast to grow. While you are waiting, examine the mushrooms and mold at this station.