

# 4 Plants and fungi

1. Which of these living things are autotrophs and which are heterotrophs?

*Truffle, daisy, horsetail, fern, Caesar's mushroom, red pine mushroom, boletus, palm tree, amanita muscaria, wheat, red alga.*

2. Look at the photo of a tree trunk. Can you tell how old it is?



3. Why is it important for seeds to be dispersed from the plant that produces them?

4. Find out how a seed germinates and what conditions are necessary for success.

5. In what different ways do fruit disperse?

6. Look at the leaves in these drawings:



a) What shape are they?

b) Why are they this shape?

7. Why do you think that mosses play an important part in the formation of a forest?

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- 8.** Comment on the following statement: “Ferns are more evolved than mosses and flowering plants are more evolved than ferns”.
- 9.** Today it is difficult to find fern forests. Only a few exist, for example, in the Hawaiian islands. In the past, however, fern forests were widespread.
- When were fern forests plentiful?
  - What effect have the remains of fern forests had on present-day habitats?



- 10.** What characteristics of the cactus allow it to flourish in the desert?
- 11.** The holm oak (or ilex) is one of the most common Mediterranean trees. What do its leaves tell us about how it has adapted to its habitat?
- 12.** What differences are there between a seed and a spore?
- 13.** What type of organism is yeast? What is it used for?
- 14.** Why do you think the mushroom is cultivated in animal manure?