

Moulds

Name: _____

Date: _____

Moulds are a type of fungus. They are micro-organisms and are so small that we can only see them with the naked eye when they multiply in numbers. There are many different kinds of mould.

Moulds are usually seen growing on the surface of objects. They are often fluffy or downy in appearance. Moulds can be many colours, including green, blue, brown, orange and yellow.

Moulds play an important role in the environment. They help to break down and recycle dead plant and animal material. This is important because nutrients are returned to the environment for plants and animals to use. This can be seen at home, for example, mouldy fruit in a fruit basket or a fluffy substance growing on an open jar of tomato paste or jam.

Moulds spread by forming reproductive spores that are carried in the air. The air contains mould spores which come from the furry growth visible on the surface of objects. Spores can stay alive for long periods of time in a dormant state until the conditions are right, and then they begin to grow.

