Unit 2.1.3 — Fungi

Introduction

Fungi are eukaryotic organisms belonging to kingdom Fungi. They include mushrooms, molds, and yeasts. Fungi lack chlorophyll and cannot produce food through photosynthesis.

Characteristics of Fungi

Fungi are eukaryotic, heterotrophic, reproduce by spores, and possess cell walls made of chitin.

Structure of Fungi

The body of fungi consists of hyphae. A group of hyphae forms a mycelium. Some fungi form mushrooms.

Nutrition in Fungi

Fungi feed saprophytically, parasitically, or symbiotically by absorbing nutrients.

Reproduction in Fungi

Fungi reproduce sexually and asexually through spores, budding, and fragmentation.

Importance of Fungi

Fungi help decomposition, food production, medicine, and biotechnology.

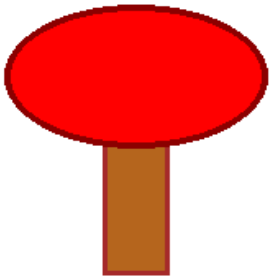
Harmful Effects

Some fungi cause diseases and food spoilage.

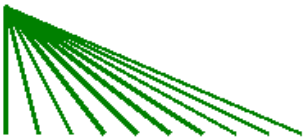
Conclusion

Fungi are important organisms in ecosystems and human life.

Illustration of Fungi



Mushroom



Hyphae / Mycelium

Chapter Summary

Fungi are important heterotrophic organisms involved in decomposition, food production, and medicine.

Key Term	Meaning
Fungi	Eukaryotic heterotrophic organisms
Hyphae	Thread-like structures
Mycelium	Mass of hyphae
Spore	Fungal reproductive structure

Review Questions and Answers

1. What are fungi?

Fungi are eukaryotic heterotrophic organisms.

2. What are hyphae?

Hyphae are thread-like fungal structures.

3. Mention importance of fungi.

They help decomposition and medicine production.

4. How do fungi reproduce?

Through spores, budding, and fragmentation.