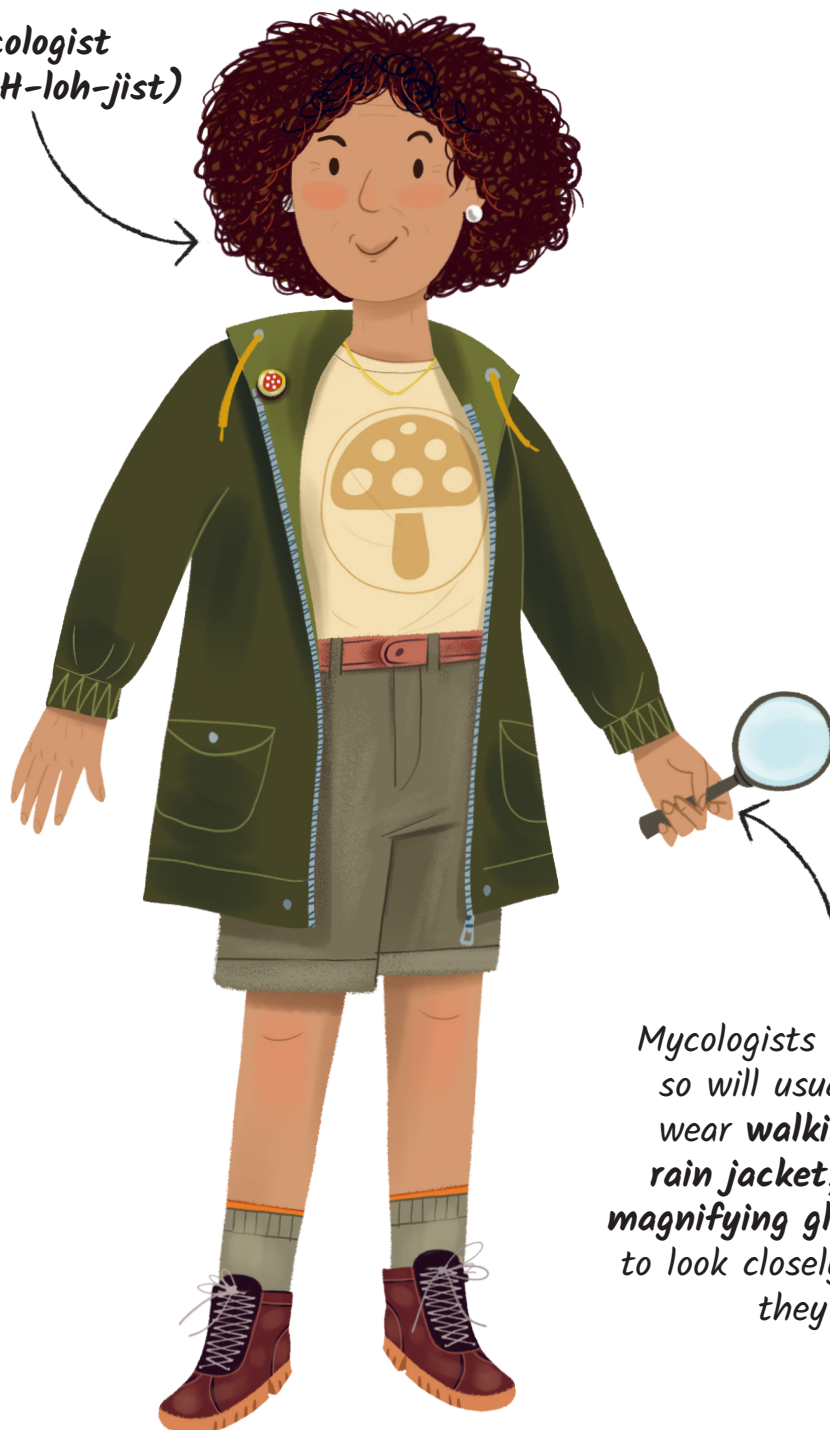


# THE WORLD OF MYCOLOGISTS

Mycologists study the fascinating world of mushrooms and fungi. Their research focuses on learning about the impressive features of mushrooms and fungi, as well as the amazing ways they can benefit our world.

*Mycologist  
(my-KOH-loh-jist)*



*Mycologists work outside, so will usually need to wear **walking boots**, a **rain jacket**, and take a **magnifying glass** with them to look closely at the fungi they find!*

# WHAT DO MYCOLOGISTS DO?

A mycologist's work is really interesting because there is always a chance of making new discoveries.



## FIELDWORK

Mycologists spend some of their time 'in the field', which means when they are outside, searching for new species of mushrooms and fungi. Sometimes, these searches help mycologists learn new things about existing mushrooms and fungi, too.

Their searches will likely take them to woods and forests, in different places all around the world.

## LAB WORK

Mycologists can spend a great deal of their time in the lab. Once fieldwork is done, they can start experimenting to see if a species can be used to help solve some of the problems in our world.

Mycologists **specialise** in different areas of mycology. Some mycologists will spend their time in a lab, trying to find a species of mushroom that can make new medicines. Other mycologists will be working to find new ways to use mushrooms as fuel for cars!



## WHO DO MYCOLOGISTS WORK FOR?

For most scientists, whatever they study, there are always jobs to be found in universities around the world. This means a mycologist would be teaching students about the wonderful world of mycology, as well as continuing their research to find the next exciting discovery!

Governments need scientists to find solutions to big problems, such as finding a replacement for fossil fuels. There is always a place for mycologists in government research laboratories.

There are also jobs for mycologists in big companies that make medicines and **biofuels**. Here, they would be working in labs, experimenting and researching to find the next big thing that mushrooms can do to save the world!

# FAMOUS DISCOVERIES

Mycologists have made so many amazing discoveries that has changed our understanding of mushrooms and fungi. Here's just a few of the most brilliant finds!



## CLASSIFICATION OF FUNGI

Around 1735, Carl Linnaeus developed a system for classifying living organisms, including fungi. His work helped to sort and understand all different kinds of fungi, which is still used in mycology today.

## FUNGI AND ROOTS

During the late 1800's, mycologists discovered the important relationship held between fungi and plant roots. Not only did this help mycologists understand fungi better, it helped other natural sciences understand ecosystems more clearly too.



## UNDERWATER MUSHROOMS

More recently in 2005, the first known mushroom species to live and reproduce underwater was discovered. Mycologists believe it is the only aquatic fungus that has gills.



**Mycologists are making discoveries all the time, who knows what they might discover next!**



# FAMOUS MYCOLOGISTS

There have been so many clever mycologists over the years.  
Here's just a few of the most famous.



## HEINRICH ANTON DE BARY

Heinrich Anton de Bary is known as the 'Father of mycology'. Heinrich was a German botanist, microbiologist, and mycologist. He researched the roles of fungi and their part in causing disease.

## JOHANNA WESTERDIJK

Johanna Westerdijk was a Dutch mycologist, most famous for being the first woman to become a professor in mycology! She made important advancements in the study of fungi that cause serious plant diseases.



## FANNY HESSE

Fanny Hesse was a German mycologist who made huge discoveries in the world of fungi, including the discovery of fungi to grow bacteria for modern medicines.

These are just a few of the many mycologists who have made a huge difference to the science.