

Hello Bruce aren't you helping with Nature Probe this month? Donal

Freshwater

Snails

breathing

hole

foot

eye stalks Stop trying

your way onto the Snail Page,

# SNAILS

Snails live in damp places. They have a foot. It is a muscle like your tongue. They stretch the foot out and shorten it to move along. The snail leaves a trail of slime. This turns silver as it dries. The slime protects the foot from sharp things. The long stalks have eyes on them and the short stalks are feelers. The snail has a tongue covered with 20,000 teeth. It is like a file. The snail does not have a nose. It has a breathing hole under its shell \*



I'm so sad I can't make it this month. If I come over I'll eat you all up. Tree frogs have suckers on their

toes.

Alpine Tree Frog.

FROGS

If you pick up a frog it feels cold and wet. Its skin is soft and bare. It has no hair or scales. The frog breathes through his nostrils with his mouth shut. Watch him swallow the air. His throat moves in and out. <u>BUT</u>, half the air a frog needs is taken in through his skin. That is why his skin is bare, so the air can get through. Hair or scales would get in the way.

and TOADS

A frog never drinks. His skin soaks up all the water he needs, and that is why it is cold and wet.

If he gets too dry he will die. When a frog feels dry he soaks himself in water.

There are no toads in Australia except the CANE TOAD. Why was he introduced in 1930?

Find out about the Life Cycle of a frog.

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"Common Toad (England)  Frogs croak with their mouths closed.
The Banjo

Frog makes the most musical sound.

A toad is different from a frog. *Tadpoles* It began life as a tadpole, just like a frog. It eats insects, snails and worms and lives in cool damp places BUT a toad's skin is different. It is thick and dry and bumpy. His defence is different too. He can not jump away from his enemies like the His back legs are shorter and he walks frog. rather than hops. His protection is poisonous liquid which oozes from his skin, It tastes so horrible that most animals leave him alone. Some toads are poisonous to people so they must not be picked up.

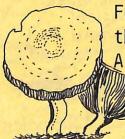
## FOOD for FUNGI

Fungi are plants that do not have green leaves or flowers or stems and roots. Green plants use sunlight, water and air to make their food.

Fungi cannot make their own food. Some fungi live on decaying leaves and wood in the soil.

Other fungi attach themselves to things that are still alive,(like trees) and steal their food from them.

### HOW FUNGI FEED



Fungi have feeding threads that grow into the soil or what they are living on. A special juice is made in the feeding threads.

The juice spreads into the soil. It dissolves the dead food.

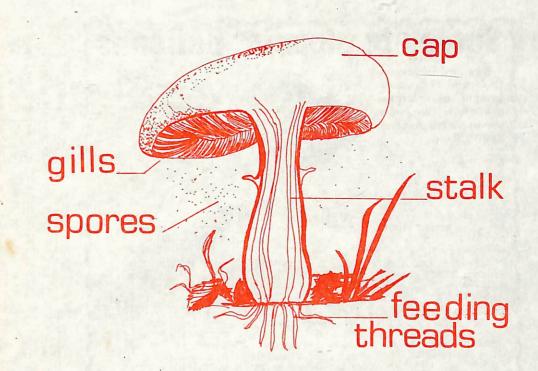
Then the threads absorb the juice back again with the food in it.

The juice travels up the stalk into the cap.

Fungi that grow on trees eat the wood in this way.

### Where do new fungi come from?

Spores are made in the gills. Each spore can grow into a new fungus plant. The cap protects them from the weather. They are mainly spread by the wind.



Fungi come in many colours except green.

- 75,000 Species of Fungi in the world.
- A single mushroom produces 6 billion spores. If all the spores from fungi grew there wouldn't be any room in the world for other plants.
- \* Has the doctor even given you penicillin? It is made from the penicillium mould. It was discovered by Alexander Fleming.
- Beatrix Potter who wrote Peter Rabbit and other famous stories studied fungi and did many wonderful drawings of different species.



Survey to pinpoint pelicans

The Bird Observers Club and the Gould League of Victoria are jointly running a survey on the Australian Pelican.

Information gleaned from the survey will be stored on the Gould League's computer.

Although pelicans are such large, conspicuous birds it is not known whether their numbers are static or falling.

The survey also aims to discover which bodies of water are important to them and if this varies according to the time of the year and even how far they fly.

Answers to these and other questions are urgently needed to aid in the future conservation of this magnificent, yet comical, bird.

The survey will be held on four occasions in the months of October 1984, April and

Recipe For

GIANT



October 1985, and April 1986.

Though the forms are simple and require no expert knowledge to complete, they will supply much-needed facts about the habits of the pelican.

I have always found surveys of this kind most interesting and enjoyable to participate in as well.

If you, too, would like to help save the pelican, write to the Bird Observers Club, 183 Springvale Road, Nunawading 3131 for the requisite forms.

The beautiful logo of the pelican was designed by wellknown bird artist Peter Trusler especially for the survey.

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Box

Choose a large, patch. Dig in plenty of manure Make a mound. Plant 4 or 5 pumpkin seeds. Water well

keep moist MANURE Seedlings after 2 weeks Giant pumpkins after 4-5 months