





Brown Mushroom Emoji Proposal

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To: Unicode Technical Committee

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I. Identification

Sample Image	Proposed ZWJ	Proposed Unicode and CLDR name	Possible CLDR English keywords	Closest Unicode Emoji
	 	Brown Mushroom	Fungi, vegetable, food, nature	

Note: Codepoints for this proposed zwj sequence: U+1F344 U+1F7EB

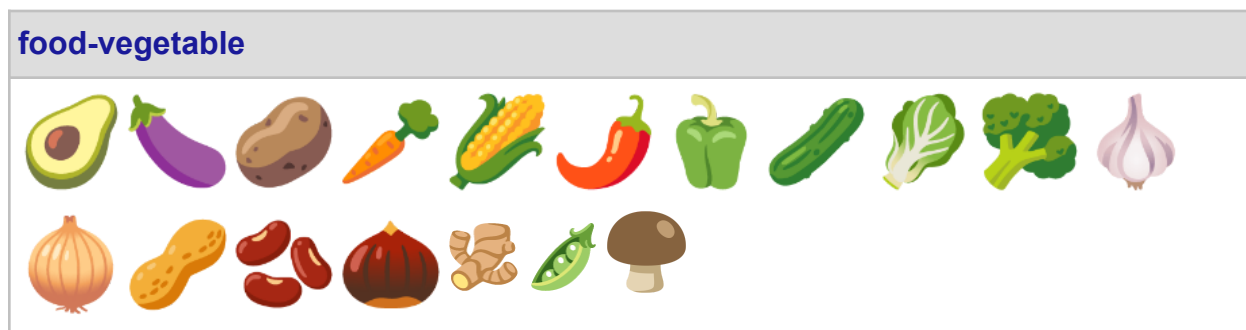
II. Images



License

I certify I am the creator of this image and have appropriate licenses for use by the UTC.

III. Sort location



II. Selection factors — Inclusion

A. Compatibility

This particular character isn't required for compatibility with an existing platform

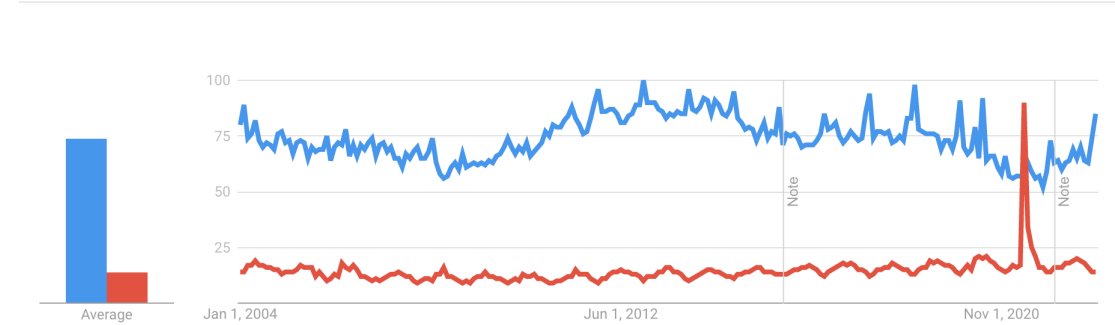
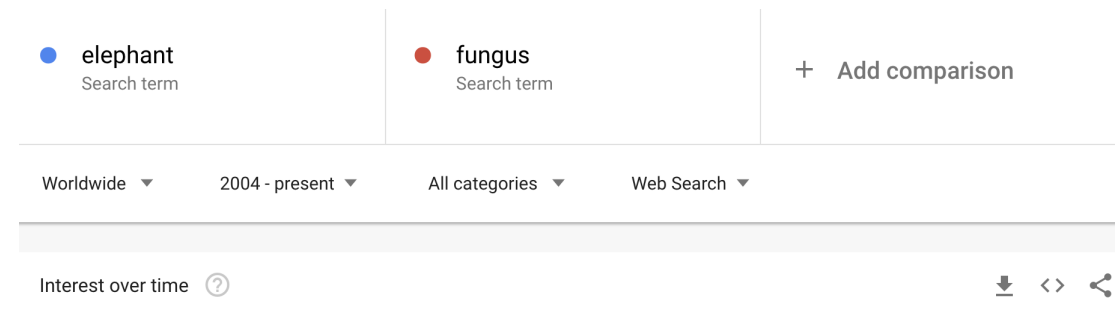
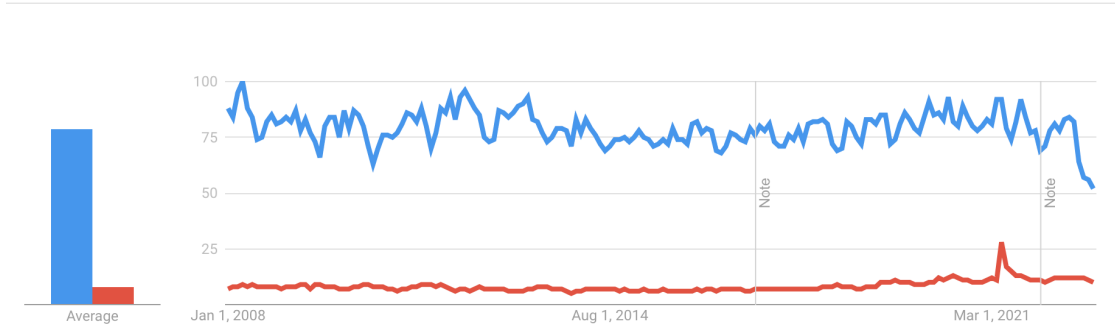
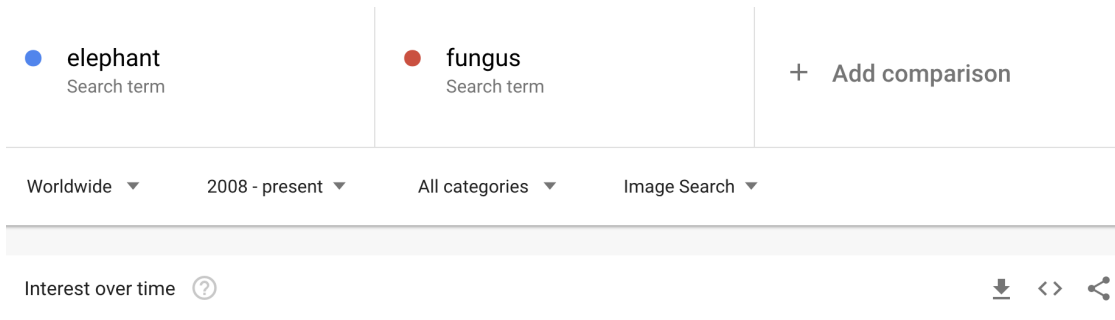
B. Expected use

1. Frequency

	Google search	Bing Search	Google Video Search
fungus	<p>x</p> <p>Google search for "fungus" showing 520,000,000 results (0.62 seconds).</p>	n/a	<p>Google Video Search for "fungus" showing about 22,600,000 results.</p>
brown-mushroom	<p>Google search for "brown-mushroom" showing 214,000,000 results (0.60 seconds).</p>	<p>Bing Search for "brown-mushroom" showing about 53,700,000 results (0.60 seconds).</p>	<p>Google Video Search for "brown-mushroom" showing about 23,200,000 results (0.60 seconds).</p>
mushroom	<p>Google search for "mushroom" showing 504,000,000 results (0.60 seconds).</p>	n/a	<p>Google Video Search for "mushroom" showing about 55,400,000 results.</p>

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Related search terms for Google Trends Web Search and Google Trends Image Search:



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2. Multiple usages

A brown mushroom is a generic symbol. Outside of literal representation to represent eating, food prep, nature walks, and foraging it is also used metaphorically in pop culture to represent spirituality and decay.

- Decay
 - Writers have very often turned to fungi when searching for a metaphor for decay or rottenness. Examples can be found in the works of many great poets and authors such as Arthur Conan Doyle, D.H. Lawrence, Emily Dickinson, Keats, Shelley, Spenser, and Tennyson
- Spirituality
 - Symbolize transformation, good health, and fertility.
- Pop Culture
 - **Historically** Art [dating as far back](#) as the 1300's and has a range of symbolism ranging including but not limited to prosperity and sustainable living.
 - **Contemporary** Magic the Gathering, Final Fantasy, Zelda, among many other video games, television shows and comics, use mushrooms symbolically. Self-Referential
- Literal representation
 - Eating, food prep, foraging, nature walks

3. Use in sequences

Used with other **food emoji** to denote food prep



Note, using this same sequence of emoji with the current mushroom ... would appear I am preparing to poison you



Used with other emoji to convey the cycle of life:

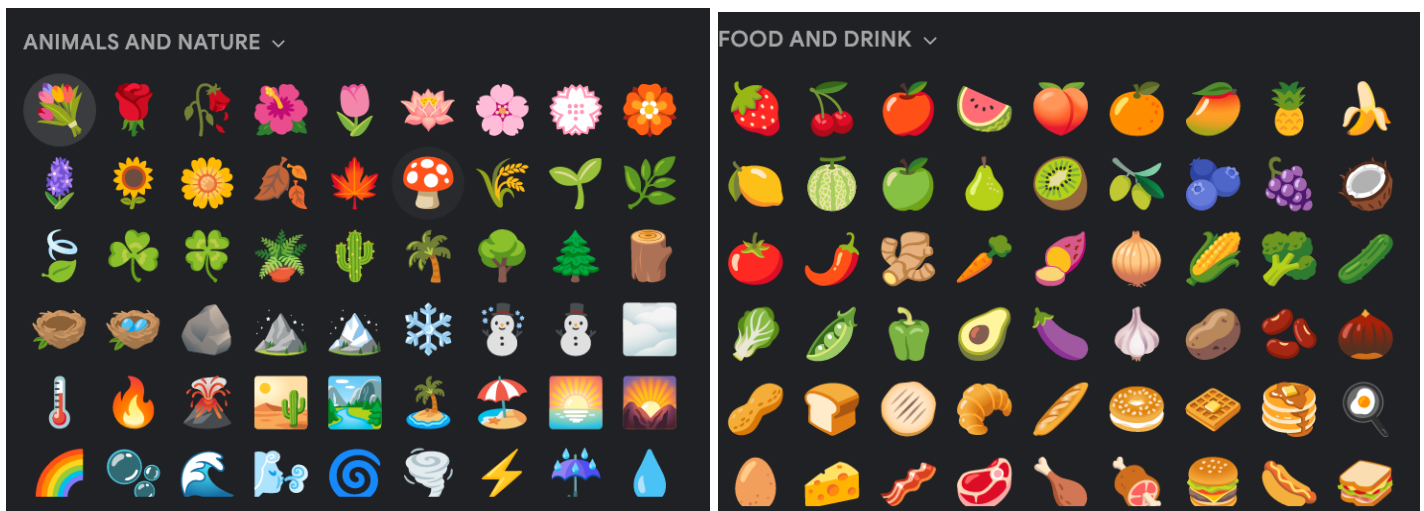
Birth Growth, Death, Decay (repeat) 🍌 🌱 ☠️ 🍄

4. Breaking new ground

Although an existing toxic mushroom (see *section H. Already Representable*) is seemingly semantically related to this proposal, a non-toxic mushroom is both meaningfully differentiated visually and semantically from this emoji. It takes something that is quite specific (a red toadstool) and generalizes it so it is more applicable for more uses.

🍄 = toxicity, drugs, threat of death

🍄 = not gonna die ... just gonna eat some veggies



While a “Fly agaric toadstool *Amanita muscaria*” exists in the animals and nature section, due to its explicit poisonous symbolism the fungi emoji does not exist in the food and drink category.

C. Image distinctiveness

This emoji is simple and requires few details to distinguish it from other emoji, even the existing toxic mushroom and vegetables



The ESC did consider a design that was a “cut” mushroom to offer more visual distinctiveness from the existing toxic mushroom but given the symbolism associated with a whole mushroom — particularly for non-edible contexts — it was clear that a design of a whole mushroom is a more long-standing visual representation of the concepts mentioned in this proposal. If a individual composing with emoji desires to represent cutting a mushroom they can pair the kitchen knife emoji next to a whole mushroom 🍴 🍄 . However, if individuals wanted to portray a whole mushroom and the design of the mushroom was already cut ... there is no sequence of emoji to make it whole again.

Given that emoji are intended to represent the concept of a thing rather than reproduce reality we recommend a design that is symbolic rather than explicitly a specific species of fungi.

D. Completeness

This design is iconic of the abstract concept of mushrooms universally and has more broad utility (food, foraging, cycle of life) than the existing emoji encoded into the Unicode standard which is an emblem for something very specific (toxicity, drugs, or an adorable fairy home). The current mushroom (🍄) is categorically in “nature” and the addition of a generic brown mushroom in “food” will complete the set.

III. Selection factors — Exclusion

F. Overly specific

No. See *Completeness*.

G. Open-ended

No, this is not part of a set of similar items.

While the technical implementation for this ZWJ is combining a color with an existing emoji (🍄🟤) we deem it relevant to note that color modifiers aren't to be used to merely change the color of an existing emoji but instead to offer a technical affordance to create a meaningful semantic addition to the emoji lexicon.

Adding a brown mushroom is less about adding a “new color of mushroom (Blue mushrooms! Green mushrooms! Yellow mushrooms!) and more about adding the concept of a mushroom that is not currently representable given the hyper specificity of the existing mushroom emoji.

H. Already representable

No. While there is a psychotropic mushroom 🍄 this image is iconic of toxins, drugs, and cottage core. The addition of this mushroom creates a intention and meaningful distinction between an edible mushroom and a non edible mushroom

I. Logos, brands, UI icons, signage, specific people, deities

Not applicable. There are no logos, brands, signage or otherwise among the proposed characters.

J. Transient

“The Oxford Companion to Food” notes that mushrooms have probably been foraged since prehistoric times. Mushrooms were prized in ancient Greece and Rome¹. Aristotle, Pliny the Elder, and others have written about fungi and Roman philosopher Galen wrote a few paragraphs on wild mushroom foraging.²

K. Faulty comparison

Justification for encoding the proposed emoji does not depend on analogy with other emoji that were encoded only for compatibility reasons.

L. Exact Images

An exact image is not required.

¹ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4684114/>

² <https://www.google.com/books/edition/Mushroom/1IFHAgAAQBAJ?hl=en&gbpv=1&dq=Cynthia+Bertelsen+mushroom&printsec=frontcover>