

# Mold

## Try It Out

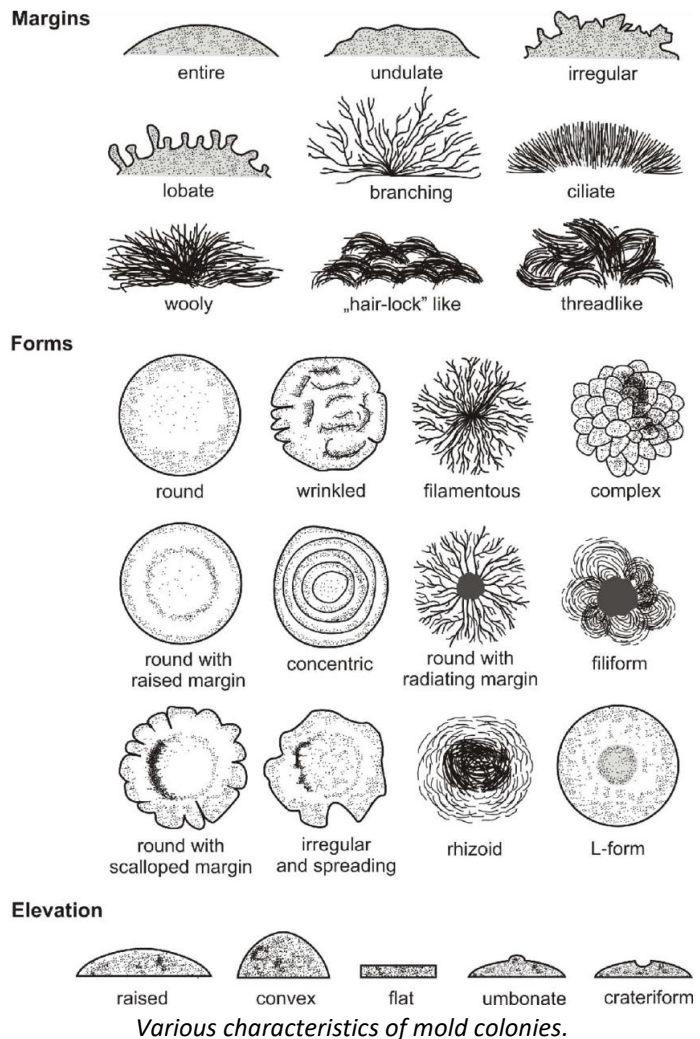
Take a look in the two containers. Do you see anything growing on the orange? What about the bread? If you don't see much, stop by again in a few days to take another look.

## What's going on?

**Mold** is a type of fungus that grows in moist places and can be found both indoors and outdoors. There are thousands of different types of mold. Mold can be white, green, orange, brown, or black. When it's first developing, it looks like a fine web of filaments. As it matures, it becomes bushier and develops fruiting bodies that contain spores.

## What's the big deal?

Exposure to mold can cause a number of health issues, including eye irritation, stuffy nose, irritated throat, coughing, wheezing, and skin irritation. However, some molds can be beneficial to people. For example, some are used to make cheeses, like blue cheese. Another mold, *Penicillium notatum*, was used to create the drug penicillin.



## Wonder While You Walk...

Can you think of any other benefits mold provides to people?