

Both parts of a lichen get their food from the algae:

- Algae use photosynthesis to make sugar (food) from water, light, and air
- Fungus eats the leftovers, Sugars that were produced but not consumed by the algae

Lichens can grow almost anywhere —
they need:

- Air
- Water
- Light
- Attachment

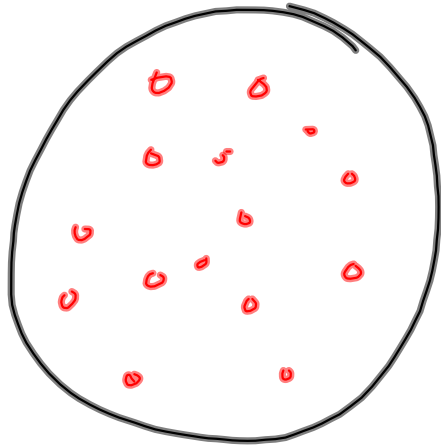
- Algae → food
- Fungus → sturdy

SPORES

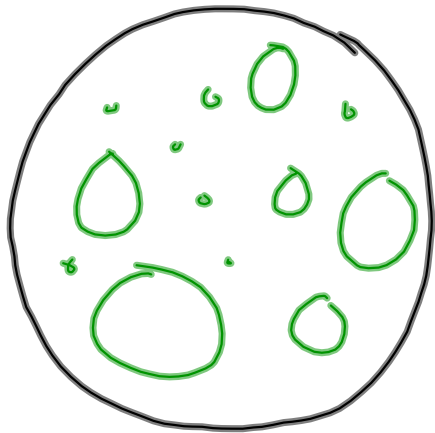
- Sexual reproduction
- two lichens mix their genes to create offspring
- this allows for genetic diversity, which is helpful in changing or extreme conditions

VEGETATIVELY

- asexual reproduction
- a piece of a lichen breaks off and makes a new lichen
- offspring is a clone → low genetic diversity
- fast, efficient & suitable for stable, moderate conditions



No genetic diversity - all organisms are the same
(any conditions bad for one will be bad for all)



Genetic diversity - not all organisms will suffer if things get tough for some...