

# Camouflage Lesson Plan

**Learning Objectives:** Student will understand the following:

- Some animals use their body color, shape, or pattern to blend into the environment
- By the use of camouflage prey animals protect themselves from predators
- By the use of camouflage, predator animals hide to better catch their prey.

**Idaho State Standards Met:** K.S.3.1.1, 1.S.3.2.1, 2.S.3.2.2, 3.S.3.1.1, 4.S.3.1.1, 5.S.3.3.2, 6.S.3.3.3, 7.S.3.1.1, 9-10.B.3.1.2

**Materials:** An assortment of construction paper; old magazines with pictures of animals, insects or reptiles (or print animal pictures from the internet); scissors; an assortment of textures cut from magazine illustrations; glue sticks; and colored markers.

**Background:** Camouflage is a kind of coloring, body shape, and/or behavior animals use to protect themselves. Camouflage helps animals hide by blending in with their environment. Camouflage may also help animals avoid danger by fooling other animals into leaving them alone.

Camouflage works for both sides in the battle for survival. Prey animals use it to avoid being found and eaten. Predators use it to keep from being seen by prey until it's too late.

## Focus Phase:

Ask students: Do you play hide and seek with your friends? How do you play this game? What do you need to do so you won't be found? Do you think animals play hide and seek too? How? Why?

Hide pictures of insects around the classroom and ask the students to find all of them. Ask them why some of them were so difficult to find. At this point introduce the word camouflage. (see attached file)

## Activity:

- Gather an assortment of construction paper; old magazines with pictures of animals, insects or reptiles (or print animal pictures from the internet); scissors; an assortment of textures cut from magazine illustrations; glue sticks; and colored markers.
- Look for cool pictures of animals, insects or reptiles. Choose one of the pictures and carefully cut away the background so that only the animal remains.
- Glue the picture on a similar color of construction paper.
- Create an environment that your animal will feel safe to be in. You can use colored markers, colored construction paper and/or textures cut from magazine illustrations to create your animal's habitat.
- When your picture is finished, show it to a family member, classmate or friend to see if they can find the animal in your picture.

**Follow up:** After the activity, hold a discussion about what made the camouflaged "animals" difficult to spot. Was it their shape, patterns, colors, or a combination of all three?

**Extensions:** Student picks an animal that demonstrates camouflage and reports to the class.





