

Program Resources

Camouflage



Overview

Now you see me, now you don't! Camouflage is an important survival strategy employed by animals on all levels of the food chain. Explore the different strategies that animals use to camouflage into their environment in order to survive. Students will come to understand that animals come in all different shapes, sizes and colours, and these differences make animals successful in their environment.

Key Concepts

- There are lots of different kinds of animals, and not all animals are like us
- Animals use camouflage to survive in their habitats
- The environment directly influences an animal's adaptations
- There are different strategies for camouflage included colour, shading and body shape
- There are trade-offs, both advantages and disadvantages to adaptations
- The ocean is connected to our lives, and human action has an impact on the Ocean

Key Vocabulary

- **Invertebrate**; is an organism which does not have bones made of mallow or cartilage
- **Vertebrate**: an organism that has a skeletal structure made out of bone marrow, cartilage, or a notochord.
- **Adaptation** = a change or the process of change by which an organism or species becomes better suited to its environment
- **Characteristic** = a feature or specific trait of an animal
- **Biotic** = living (e.g. grass, seal, hermit crab)
- **Abiotic** = non-living (e.g. rocks, water, oxygen)

Discussion Questions

- What does our environment look like? Identify the abiotic and biotic factors within your own ecosystem.
- How does an animal's home affect how it survives?

- What survival challenges do both humans and ocean animals share?
- How do humans impact an animal's ability to survive?

Videos

Meet the Tubesnout | Ocean Wise:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gt6obsEh4t0&list=PLckztJB7Fe0XazajQF_IFAy9aOQy5o_EH&index=4

Camouflage Queen | Wonderfully Weird | Nat Geo WILD:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lrdbENkylZM>

Monster Frogfish Found | Brave Wilderness: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HUUsEgAe8x4>

Shark Coloration | Shark Academy | BlueWorldTV:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2yD5TDJV_n0

Suggested Activities

Camouflage: one person (the predator) stands in the center of a designated outdoor space and, without moving from their spot, tries to spot all of the other participants who are hiding in the surrounding area. With each round the predator can close their eyes to count and allow participants to re-hide or move closer. <http://www.ultimatecampresource.com/site/camp-activity/camouflage.html>

Create a Creature: provide students with a suggested ecosystem and have them design their own never-before-seen creature that would camouflage in that given habitat. Remember their animal must have a way to get food, oxygen, water as well as stay hidden.

Extra Links

- Take the Plastic Pledge! <http://ocean.org/plastic-wise/>
- Ocean Wise Life: <http://seafood.ocean.org/>
- Great Canadian Shoreline Cleanup: <http://shorelinecleanup.ca/>
- The Marine Biodiversity Project: <https://www.vanaqua.org/marine-biodiversity/>