



Camouflage Capers

Objective To show how animals use camouflage to conceal themselves.

Materials Animal patterns
Construction paper
Crayons or paints
Scissors

Teacher Information Many animals use camouflage to blend in with their surroundings. This helps them avoid being found and eaten, and assists them in making surprise attacks on other animals.

Procedure

1. Have students choose an animal pattern and outline it on construction paper. Let students color their animal with either stripes or dots. Cut out the animal shape.
2. Using an entire sheet of construction paper, ask students to draw a background for their animal. Have them color a scene to match where the animal may live (i.e. If they have drawn a fish with stripes, have them draw a seaweed or coral scene). Have them color a scene with sand and gravel like the ocean's bottom if they have colored a fish with dots. If they have colored a tiger, they can color a grassland or jungle scene. Use the same colors on the background that were used on the animal. Cut slits one inch apart into the background scene.
3. Slide the animal in and out of the slits. Does the color help the animal blend into its surroundings? How does this help the animal survive?
4. Ask students to exchange their animals. Try sliding different animals into different backgrounds. Ask students if their animal would be able to hide in other habitats.