





CAMOUFLAGE

Animals adapt and live together with other parts of their community. Because they have close relationships with their environment, they can develop camouflage adaptations.

Camouflage helps animals blend into their surroundings. It helps them survive by making it difficult for their predators or prey to observe them. Animals can camouflage using any sense, such as the way they look, the way they smell, and the sounds they make. Animals can use more than one type of camouflage at once!

Mimicry is a one type of camouflage. It is when one living thing looks like another living thing that is dangerous, bad tasting, or poisonous. It is another way animals fool their predators.

Disguise is another type of camouflage. It is when a living thing blends into its surroundings by using their shape, color, or texture to look like something that is not an animal, like rocks or leaves.

			
The OWL BUTTERFLY has owl eyes on the back of its wings to make predators think they are looking at an owl and not a butterfly.	HOVERFLIES uses buzzing to mimic the sounds of stinging insects. They also use visual mimicry to look like a wasp or bee.	The CADDISFLY LARVA attaches grains of sand and rock to its body to make it look like a rock or sand.	The WEST AFRICAN SAVANNA FROG uses its scent to trick ants into thinking it is also an ant so they will not sting it.

HOW TO CAMOUFLAGE YOURSELF

You can camouflage yourself by using **vocal mimicry** like the Hoverfly. Try mimicking someone that lives with you. You can imitate their voice or a sound they make like footsteps. Ask yourself:

- Is their voice deep or high pitched?
- Do they talk fast or slow?
- Do they talk loudly or softly?
- How often do they make the sound?

MAKE A MASK

You can camouflage yourself by using visual mimicry or disguise like a Caddisfly or Owl Butterfly. What animal, plant, or nonliving thing would you like to pretend to be? Can you think of an animal or plant that might be dangerous, bad tasting, or poisonous? How about something that just wouldn't be good to eat?

Create your mask:



GATHER THESE MATERIALS

- A paper plate or thick sheet of paper
- Scissors
- Yarn/ribbon/string or straw/craft stick
- Hole puncher (optional)

Supplies to decorate your mask. These could be:

- Colorful paper
- Glue or tape
- Markers, colored pencils, or crayons
- Glitter
- Feathers

1. Make 2 holes for eyes. Use the whole plate/paper or cut it into any shape you want.
2. Decorate your mask so that it looks like the animal, plant, or nonliving thing you decided to camouflage yourself as.
3. There are 2 ways to wear your mask:

Using ties

- Use the hole puncher or scissors to punch a hole on each side of the mask near the edge and opposite the eye holes
- Cut 2 pieces of yarn, ribbon or string about 10 inches each. Tie 1 piece into each hole. When the mask is finished put it on and tie the strings behind your head

Using a straw or craft stick

- Glue the stick/straw to the backside of the mask. Use it as a handle to hold the mask in front of your face.

CAMOUFLAGE YOUR CREATURE

Do you still have the creature you created yesterday? If you do, make some camouflage for it!

- Where did you decide it lives? What objects could it disguise itself as?
- How did you decide it moves? Could it move a different way to mimic a different animal?
- Does it have bright colors? What could you add to hide them?
- Bring your creature outside. Where can it be camouflaged? Can you hide it somewhere so that another person can't see it?