

Mimicry and camouflage

Worksheet 1 - teacher's notes

1. Animals developed many survival techniques. Can you give any examples of animal adaptation ?
What increases their chance of survival?

students' own answers about animal camouflage

2. Watch two films about animal camouflage. What did you learn from them ?

http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/fish_camouflage

<http://animals.howstuffworks.com/animal-facts/animal-camouflage.htm>

3. There are four basic types of camouflage:

- concealing camouflage
animal hides against the background of the same colour, snowy owl, polar bear
- disruptive coloration
animal has spots, stripes etc to stand out against the background, zebras
- disguise
animal blends with the background by looking like another object, stick insect
- mimicry
animals look like other dangerous species, using colouring or patterns, scarlet kingsnake

Go to

<http://oakdome.com/k5/lesson-plans/powerpoint/animal-camouflage-pictures-and-information.php> to find a quick definition and examples of each.

In small groups choose one of the camouflage types, look for more information and examples and tell the rest of the class what you have learnt.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/adaptations/Camouflage>

<http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/wd-ep3-frogs?source=relatedvideo>

<http://video.nationalgeographic.com/video/worlds-deadliest-ngs/deadliest-cuttlefish-hypnosis?-source=relatedvideo>

<http://animals.howstuffworks.com/animal-facts/animal-camouflage.htm>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Crypsis>

<http://www.brighthub.com/environment/science-environmental/articles/68533.aspx>

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/leopards/seeingsans.html>

students' own answers and examples

4. Are you a good detective? Go to <http://ngm.nationalgeographic.com/2009/08/mimicry/mimicry-interactive> and see if you can spot creatures exhibiting mimicry behaviour.