



ANIMAL CLASSIFICATION

Understanding differences in animal body coverings



GRADE 1

MATERIALS

- body covering cut-outs
- animal cut-outs
- 3 file folders
- scissors
- glue

KEY WORDS

- fur
- feathers
- scales

STANDARDS

- SCI.1.3.1

OBJECTIVES

- Students will learn about the differences in body coverings (fur, feathers, scales, and so on) between animals.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- Baby animals sometimes have spots to keep them hidden while they are otherwise defenseless. A deer fawn will lie perfectly still curled up on the forest floor, and remain undetected by predators that may pass within a few feet of it.
- Ground-nesting birds, such as whippoorwills, woodcocks, plovers, and quail, have feathers with patterns that make them blend into the leaves
- Types of Body Coverings
 - Animals are grouped into classes according to their characteristics.
 - One of the main characteristics used to distinguish one class of animals from another is type of skin covering.
 - Mammals have hair or fur, birds have feathers, reptiles have dry scales, amphibians have soft, moist skin, and fish have wet, slimy scales.
 - Although each skin covering is useful in many ways, the focus of this information is how various colors and patterns help an animal's chances for survival.
 - Animals often find it necessary to hide in order to escape enemies or to catch something to eat.
 - Skin that helps an animal blend into its surroundings is an obvious advantage for both predators and prey.
- Body Coverings that Help Hide Animals
 - Birds and mammals that hide among the bushes often have spotted skin. Their coats look like patches of sunlight in a forest.
 - Many cats, such as leopards, jaguars, ocelots, and cheetahs, wait, camouflaged among the leaves, until their prey is within striking distance.





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PROCEDURE

- Create a file folder game for your students that can be ongoing if you wish.
- Glue the provided patterns to 3 file folders to form 3 separate pockets.
- Cut out and laminate pictures of animals that have fur, feathers, or scales.
- Have the students sort the animals by placing them in the file folder that matches the body covering of each animal.

RECOMMENDED ASSESSMENT

- Be sure the students participate in the activity and understand the types of body coverings.

EXTENSIONS

- Add two extra pockets to each file folder. Introduce the terms mammal, bird, reptile, amphibian, and fish. Label each of the five pockets accordingly.
- Let the children sort the animal pictures into the five groups.





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Students will learn differences in body coverings.

Name _____

