

CAMOUFLAGED CRITTERS

Crafting paper machè snakes



GRADE 1

MATERIALS

- newspaper
- clothes hangers
- tape
- paint
- paintbrushes

KEY WORDS

- camouflage
- pattern

STANDARDS

• SCI.1.3.1

OBJECTIVES

- Students will learn that animal coverings come in a variety of colors and patterns.
- Students will learn that colors and patterns protect animals by:
 - Helping them blend into their surroundings (example: a tiger in tall grass).
 - Making them look like something else (example: a walking stick insect).
 - Warning others to stay away (example: skunk).
- Students will learn that animals' bodies are different shapes and sizes. All animals do not all have the same characteristics (example: number of legs, position of eyes and ears on head, tails, toes, etc.).

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

• Many types of reptiles, particularly snakes, have stripes that help camouflage them. Some boa constrictors, copperheads, and some rattlesnakes blend into the sand or leaves of their habitats.

PROCEDURE

- Show students how to make their own snakes.
- Give each student an untwisted clothes hanger.
- Using the hooks as the head, have students bend the hangers into wavy bodies for the snakes.
- The students can then wind crumpled newspaper around the hangers, taping them on to form the bodies. Crumpled balls of newspaper can be taped around the hooks to form the head and eyes.
- The students can then paper machè over the newspaper to create covers for the snakes.
- When the paper machè is dry, students can paint their snakes in whatever pattern they desire.
- After finishing the snakes, students can then make habitats for their snakes, in which their snakes are camouflaged.

RECOMMENDED ASSESSMENT

• Watch to make sure each student comes up with a unique snake.

EXTENSIONS

• Have the students compare their snakes and explain to their classmates why they chose the pattern they chose, explaining how it helps the snake with camouflage, hunting, or protection.





