



PASS ME BY, PLEASE

Learning about a type of camouflage called “protective resemblance”



GRADE 4

MATERIALS

- craft materials (colored paper, yarn, sand, scraps of material, etc.)

KEY WORDS

- camouflage
- protective resemblance
- passive defense
- mimicry

STANDARDS

- SCI.4.3.4

OBJECTIVES

- Students will learn about camouflage and protective resemblance by designing an animal that closely resembles a common object.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- Passive defenses protect an animal either before a predator attacks (as in camouflage, mimicry, or warning coloration) or immediately after an attack (turtle or snail shell, sea urchin spines, porcupine quills).
- Also called cryptic coloration, camouflage is used by prey as well as predators to fool an enemy. Many animals resemble objects in their environment (leaves, sticks, tree bark, rocks, flowers) that would not attract attention or actually be shunned - several types of caterpillars look like bird droppings as they sit motionless on a leaf.

PROCEDURE

- Have students go outside, collect an object, and bring it back inside. Students will then design an animal that resembles the object that they found.
- Have students answer the provided questions.

RECOMMENDED ASSESSMENT

- Check students' work for completion.
- Discuss characteristics that students included in their animal and how these characteristics would help or hinder the animal in a predator/prey situation.

EXTENSIONS

- To learn more about animal defenses, have students complete the activities entitled “The Coyote and the Skunk” and “Camouflage: Birds and Worms”.





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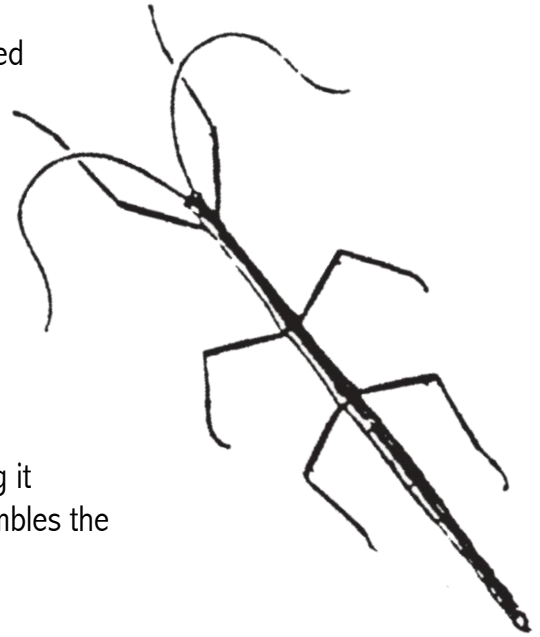


Name _____

Many animals, particularly insects, use a type of passive defense called “protective resemblance” to protect themselves from predator attack. Their bodies actually take on the shapes and colors of objects in their environment so that they will not attract attention.

Several insects featured in the Fort Wayne Children’s Zoo’s Indonesian Rain Forest use this type of camouflage. Their bodies so closely resemble twigs and leaves that you have to look very closely to see them!

Go outside and select an object, such as a twig, leaf, stone, etc. Bring it back inside and use craft materials to design an animal that closely resembles the object you found outside. Then answer the questions below.



1. Common name of your animal _____

Scientific name (make-believe) _____

2. What does your animal eat? _____

3. What eats your animal? _____

4. What time of day is your animal most active? _____

5. What conditions does your animal need to survive? (moisture, temperature, light) _____

6. Other important information about your animal: _____

Now place your animal outside in a camouflaged spot. Give your description paper to another person and see if they can find your animal!

