

NATURE'S DISCOVERIES

PREK-2ND GRADE + SPECIAL NEEDS

NGSS: K-LS1; 1-LS1, LS2

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

1. Students will understand (a) that plants and animals have traits, both physical and behavioral, that help them survive in specific habitats and (b) that habitats meet the needs of these organisms by providing food, water, and shelter.
2. Students will be able to name three types of habitat and identify at least one organism that lives in each habitat.

PRE-TRIP DISCUSSION TOPICS

- What kinds of things make up nature?
- How can we show respect to nature?
- How can we help protect plants, animals, and the environment when we visit natural spaces?
- What are some animals and plants you would expect to see at Wind Wolves Preserve? Where would you expect to find them?

CLASSROOM ACTIVITY

CAMOUFLAGED CHAMELEON HUNT

Supplies: Colored paper (variety of colors), scissors, pen/pencil (optional)

1. Either print the chameleon template (see resources section to the right) or draw your own on sheets of different colored paper.
2. Cut out the chameleons (using your students' help, if desired).
3. During recess or another break, place the chameleons throughout your classroom, making sure some blend in with their surroundings while others stand out.
4. When your students return, ask them to find the chameleons, setting a time limit, if desired.
5. After the activity, ask if some chameleons were easier to spot than others. Which ones? Why? Discuss how camouflage (colors, patterns, and shapes) can help animals hide. Ask students why animals might not want to be seen (e.g. to avoid being eaten, to sneak up on prey, etc.). Can they think of any reasons animals may want to stand out? For instance, bees and wasps are very bright - does this help them survive? Yes! In this case, these animals are warning predators that they aren't good to eat!

- KEY TERMS -

HABITAT

The place where a living thing makes its home.

SPECIES

A group of a very specific type of living thing. Examples: black bear, golden eagle, gopher snake.

PREDATOR

An animal that eats other animals.

PREY

An animal that is eaten by other animals.

CAMOUFLAGE

The use of colors, patterns, and shapes to disguise one's location, identity, or movements. Example: a leaf bug is hiding its identity as an insect to avoid being seen by predators.

- RESOURCES -

BOOKS

[The Mixed Up Chameleon](#)
(by Eric Carle)

EXTRAS

[Chameleon Template](#)

VIDEOS

[The Mixed Up Chameleon Read Aloud](#) (YouTube)



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