



Beyond the Book Activity

How to Hide an Octopus & Other Sea Creatures

by Ruth Heller

Once you have read the book, it is time to move outside. Take a few minutes to prepare for the outdoors and remember, the more comfortable you are the more success you will have on this endeavor. Follow the guide below to an adventure beyond the book!

| Engage: How to Hide a Pencil | Explore: Create Your Own Critter |
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| <p>Animals have developed unique camouflaging techniques to disguise their appearance and to blend into the world around them.</p> <p>Let's practice camouflaging! <i>Find 1 or more family members or friends and a pencil.</i></p> <p>One person is "IT" first. Everyone else must face the other direction and hide their eyes – no peeking!</p> <p>The person who is "IT" has approximately 25 seconds to hide the pencil in the general area. Get creative with your hiding spots!</p> <p>When instructed, players will turn around and look for the pencil. When someone spots the pencil – play it cool. Do not pick it up, or make the location known to other players. Quietly stand next to the person who hid the pencil until everyone has found it. The game is not over until all players have located the pencil.</p> | <p>There are no time or distance requirements here. Just step outside and go on a walk!</p> <p>While you are walking, look up, down and all around for something interesting that catches your eye. It could be something found in nature like an interesting leaf, stick, or flower or it could be something manmade, like litter, a road sign, or a building. Once you find it, take a photo or just a mental snapshot of that object.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Go home and draw a picture of the creature, real or imaginary, that you think would blend into that object or use it as camouflage. » Next time, remember to think like an animal when you play hide and seek and use camouflaging techniques to blend into the world around you! |
| Extend: All Sorts of Camouflage | Resources |
| <p>Both predators, (animals that eat other animals), and prey (animals that are eaten by other animals), utilize camouflaging techniques.</p> <p>Some animals blend into the world around them. The color of their body matches the color of the background in which they are trying to blend. Think about a green caterpillar on a green leaf. Now think about that same green caterpillar sitting on a bright yellow flower.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Will the caterpillar blend into the green leaf or the yellow flower better? <p>Other animals use patterns such as spots or markings on their bodies to try to hide better, like the rough appearance of the skin on the back of a toad.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Can you spot the toad in the picture below? <div data-bbox="375 1602 669 1705" style="text-align: center;"> </div> <p>Another technique is disguise. The katydid (pictured on right) is a perfect example of a master of disguise. It looks just like a leaf!</p> | <p>This video introduces different animals and how they use camouflaging techniques. https://www.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/tdc02.sci.life.colt.disguise/masters-of-disguise/</p> <p>Discover how the praying mantis has adapted itself to better disguise into its environment. https://www.pbslearningmedia.org/resource/tdc02.sci.life.evo.camouflage/evolution-of-camouflage/</p> <p>Hide and Go Peep (animated story) Peep and the Big Wide World http://www.peepandthebigwideworld.com/en/kids/videos/239/hide-and-go-peep/</p> |

