

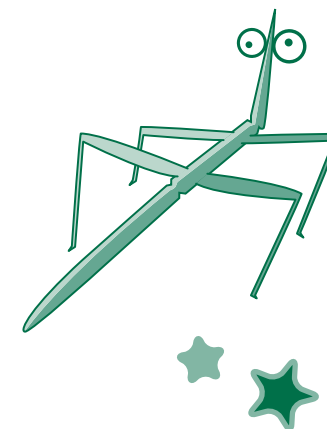
Clever camouflaged creatures

★ What do I do?



1. Read the ACTIVITY CARD which will provide useful guidance for you.
2. Check the Resources list – see overleaf.
3. Set the scene by discussing Confused Corina's question. You could show a couple of pictures of camouflaged creatures.
4. Give the children the brown/grey butterfly shape and the piece of string. Give them time to discuss and explore camouflage by trying to work out how they might 'hide' the butterflies.
5. Now the children can have the set of objects. You will need to tell the children that one of the camouflage challenges is to hide the white piece of paper on top of the wrapping paper (see Resources).
6. Tell them how long they have to camouflage all the objects. Limiting the time makes it more demanding.
7. You can organise it as a game by letting another adult or children from another group see if they can find the objects. You can do this activity outside.

8. Remind them not to climb onto anything to hide their objects.
9. After they have played the game allow time to talk about which things were the hardest to see and why.
10. If you have a digital camera children will enjoy taking photos of some of their objects. This would make an interesting display. Alternatively they could use a computer to write an answer for Corina. This can be done as a whole group activity with you scribing.
11. There are extra challenges on the ACTIVITY CARD which can be used if there is spare time or if children want to try out more ideas at home and earn a bonus sticker.



★ Handy hints

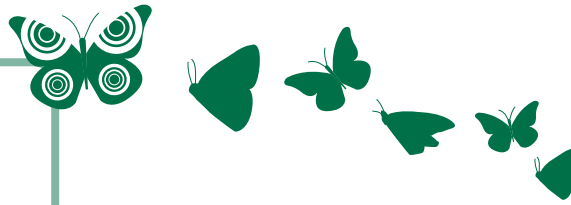
Resources

For each group:

- ★ Butterfly shapes cut out of brown or grey paper (sugar paper or wrapping paper is fine)
- ★ 15 cm pieces of white string or pipe cleaners
- ★ Crayons, pencils and/or felt tip pens, scissors, Blu-Tack

Objects to 'hide':

- ★ A piece of brightly coloured wool or pipe cleaner
- ★ Plastic animals in their natural colours
- ★ Something cut out of a magazine page – their choice
- ★ A square white sheet of paper (6 cm x 6 cm approx) and some patterned wrapping paper. You or the children can add other objects.



Things to look out for

- ★ Remind the children that the challenge is NOT about hiding objects underneath things.
- ★ Let them choose how to 'hide' the objects even if you think that there are better ways of doing it.
- ★ Children may want to cut the white square of paper into an irregular shape as well as colouring it. The children may realise that not having a straight edge is helpful.

Safety

- ★ There are few safety issues in this activity apart from stopping children climbing to 'hide' their objects.

Background information

- ★ Animals, such as big cats, have spots or stripes to blend with their surroundings. Zebras' stripes make it difficult for a predator to know where one animal ends and the other begins.
- ★ Polar bears and other animals that spend a lot of time in snow often have fur to match. Some animals even have a brown coat for summer and a white coat for winter (e.g. stoat).
- ★ Some animals have special skin that can change colour. Chameleons are the most famous of these.
- ★ Other animals, such as stick insects, leaf insects and some moths, are shaped like twigs or leaves.
- ★ Female animals are sometimes better camouflaged than the males (e.g. pheasant). This is so that they are not seen when sitting on the nest or looking after young.

