

The Benefits Of Camouflage

Camouflage (kam-uh-flahzh) is the way some animals hide or disguise themselves to blend in with their environment. Some of them use camouflage to help them remain hidden from predators and some change colors to express their moods.

Camouflage is beneficial to many different animals to help them stay hidden from predators who primarily hunt using vision and not smell. Some are born with markings that are similar to leaves or stones that are present in their habitat. As their surroundings change some will change the color of their fur, like the arctic fox. It's



Can you find the Walking Stick?

Chameleons are lizards who change colors. They express their mood by turning yellow, dark blue or black if they become angry.



fur will be brown to hide in the trees in the warmer weather and will grow white fur to hide in the snow during the colder months. Octopus will change their color and texture quickly in order to accomodate the change of its terrain on the ocean floor! Walking Sticks with their dark bodies and large joints look like twigs to escape their predators.

Some animals like the zebra have a special pattern that helps them blend in with each other to confuse their predator. The zebra's stripes prevent lions from focusing on one animal.

There are also animals that use mimicry to confuse their predators. Mimicry is a form of camouflage that resembles another animal. An example

The Arctic Fox during cooler months.



The Arctic Fox during warmer months.



of this are harmless snakes who mimic, or act like, rattlesnakes in appearance and behavior in order to be left alone.

Basically, animals use camouflage as a way to stay safe in their natural environment. Here are some examples:



Can you find the Hawkmoth Caterpillar?



The Nile Crocodile blends in with the muddy brown waters.



Do you see the Graybanded King Snake?



The Great White Shark, a predator uses it's color to become invisible under water!