

Colors in Nature

Objective:

Students will create scenes which demonstrate how animals use colors for camouflage and to attract attention.

Key Concept:

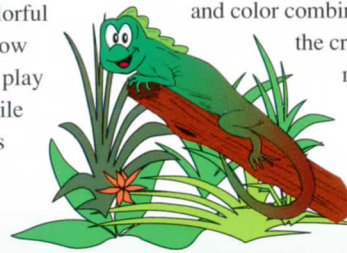
In nature, coloration functions as a protective device and also can serve to attract attention.

Supplies Needed:

- Crayola® crayons
- Crayola® markers
- Crayola® scissors
- Crayola® glue or Crayola® glue sticks
- large size drawing paper or mural paper
- clear tape

Procedure and Results:

1. Have a class discussion about how animals use color to either hide, or to attract attention. Cite examples of bird species which have colorful males and brown females and discuss how those colors help them in the roles they play (males often chase away other birds while females sit on nest/eggs). Cite examples where the animals change their color according to the season. For example, the Arctic fox turns from gray to white when winter arrives. Chameleons are famous for their quick color changes to match their environment.



2. Have students work in teams to create “Colors in Nature Challenge Scenes.” Using crayons and markers they should create visual patterns and color combinations in their scenes and the creatures. Each team should make a scene that contains at least 10 animals, some which are camouflaged and others which stick out brightly. The animals can be “movable” by creating them on separate paper and taping them into the scene.

3. After each team has completed their artwork they will challenge classmates to find all the animals in their scene. Demonstrate the role of camouflage by moving the animals to other areas of the scene where their colors would not protect them. See how much easier they are to find when their colors do not hide them.



FACT:



ANIMALS USE COLOR TO EITHER HIDE OR ATTRACT ATTENTION.