



Classroom Camouflage

Introduction

When looking through the pages of *All Around Me I See* by Laya Steinberg you can find animals, insects and birds hiding in their habitat. In this activity, students will discuss how camouflage helps keep animals safe from predators.

Materials Needed

- ◆ Frog line drawing
- ◆ Markers or crayons
- ◆ Scissors

Key Concepts

- ◆ Organisms' patterns of behavior relate directly to the environment.
- ◆ Behavior is influenced by internal cues and external cues.

For standards correlation please see our website.

Procedure

1. Color a frog to match a shade and pattern of some part of the classroom (e.g. rug, floor, bookshelf).
2. Cut out the animal shape.
3. Hide the frogs in their 'habitat' without other students seeing (best done before recess or lunch).
4. When they return, have students look for the hidden frogs. The student who finds the most is the best predator.
5. Questions to discuss: Was it easy to find the frogs? Which ones were easiest to find? Why? Which were harder to find? If you were an animal what colors or patterns would you need to hide in your habitat? How does not being seen or detected help an animal?

Nature Connections

- ◆ Invite students to observe animals, insects and birds in their home habitat (yard, park, neighborhood) and keep a journal of creature sightings.
- ◆ Copy pictures from *All Around Me I See* and add other animals that belong in that habitat. Also add animals which don't belong in the habitat. Ask students to identify which animals don't belong.

Additional Resources

A Camouflage Game:

<http://www.abc.net.au/beasts/playground/camouflage.htm>

Camouflage Field Book:

<http://www.harcourtschoo.com/activity/camouflage/camouflage.html>

Seeing Through Camouflage:

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/leopards/seeing.html>

