

Survival

Pre-Program Activity

Grades K-2



Objective: Students will recognize that camouflage is one adaptation that can help animals survive.

Sunshine State Standards:

- **SC.K.L.14.3** Observe plants and animals, describe how they are alike and how they are different in the way they look and in the things they do.
- **SC.1.L.14.1** Make observations of living things and their environment using the five senses..
- **SC.2.L.17.1** Compare and contrast the basic needs that all living things, including humans, have for survival.

Overview:

Students look for paper butterflies with different patterns and colors and then design a butterfly that camouflages with something in the classroom.

Materials:

- [Butterfly patterns](#) (2 butterflies per student)
- Crayons or markers

Procedure:

- Give each student one butterfly and tell them they can color it any way they like using two different colors.
- Place the butterflies in plain sight in a large, open area such as a playground – try to place some of them on similarly colored objects to make them harder to spot.
- Take the students to the area and ask them to look around and count how many butterflies they can see. One at a time, ask students to point out one butterfly they found.
- Ask the students which butterflies were the easiest to see and which were the hardest to see. Explain that an animal's coloring is an adaptation that helps it survive. Ask the students why they think it might be helpful for an animal to blend in with its surroundings. Explain that this is called camouflage.
- Take the class back inside and hand out another butterfly to each student. Tell them that this time they should color their butterfly so that it camouflages with something in the classroom.
- Place the butterflies around the room while the students are not there and let them try to find them when they come back. Ask the students which butterflies they think would be able to survive the longest.

Extensions:

- Take the class on a camouflage hunt and have them look for animals that are blending in with their surroundings.
- Have students bring in pictures of bugs and other animals that are camouflaged and post them on a camouflage bulletin board.
- Show the students pictures of animals that do not camouflage well and ask them how they think these animals are able to survive.