

Hide & Seek

How to Camouflage

“To Camouflage” means to hide or use a disguise. This makes it hard for others to see us. Animals’ colours or shapes can hide them. This lets them blend into the places where they live.

You can do this activity sheet in your garden, local park, beach, or even by using the 3D Virtual Visit on [museum.ie](https://www.museum.ie). What examples of camouflage can you find?

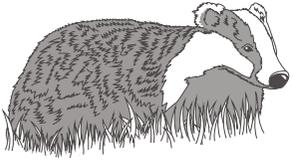
Countershading:

Most animals are darker on top and light underneath. Light comes from the sky, and this countershading makes the animal harder to see. The dark colour helps it blend in with the background when seen from above, and the light colour helps it blend in with the sky when seen from below. A common example you might see is the grey squirrel.



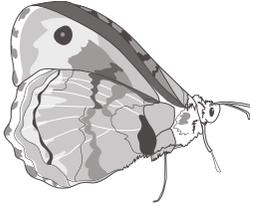
Think of an example of an animal with countershading and draw it in this box.

Some other ways animals can hide are shown below:



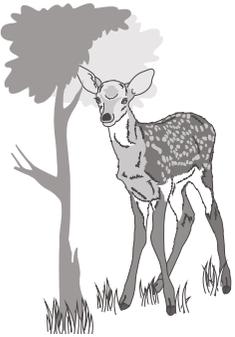
Eye-stripe:

Many animals hide their round eye shape by having a stripe on their face, like this badger.



Patterns:

Animals often have patterns such as speckles to match the background. Even bright butterflies often sit with their wings closed to show the camouflaged pattern of their underwings.



Light:

If an animal stands in light with speckles the same size as its pattern or markings, their disguise is even better! Deer are a good example of this.



Some ways animals can camouflage are listed here. For each one, name an animal that uses it to help hide themselves:

Q1. Countershading (dark on top and light underneath)

Q2. Patterns match the light (e.g. speckles)

Q3. Eye-stripe (stripe of colour on face to hide eye)

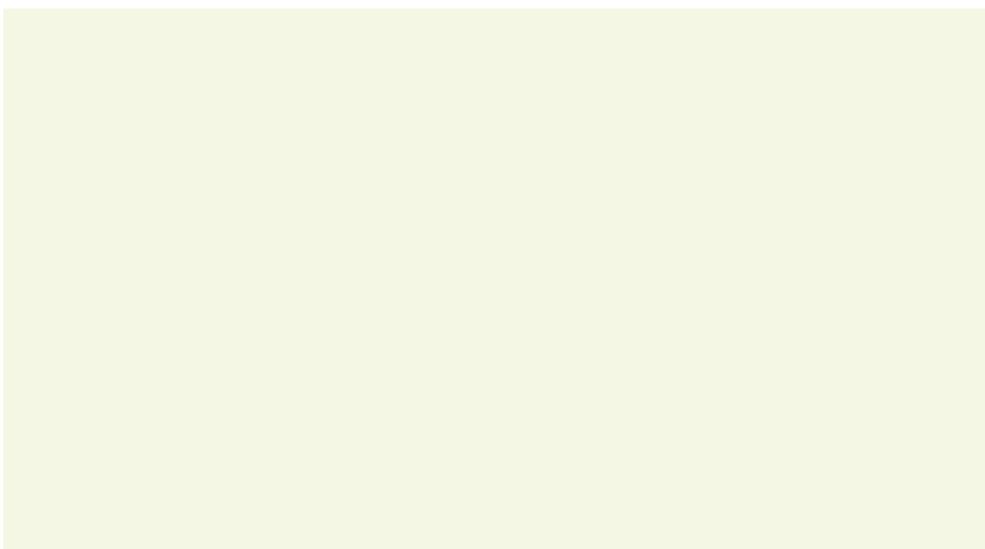
Imagine and Design your own Camouflaged Animal!

Animals hide by matching or blending into the background.

Animals must stay still for this to work. Having the right background is important!

| | |
|--|---|
| Step One: Look around you. | Choose a place for your animal to live. This will be the background for your animal to blend into. |
| Step Two: Describe your chosen background. | What colours are in my background? _____ |
| | What is my background made of? (leaves, grass, sand, rocks etc.): _____ |
| | What pattern is in my background? _____ |

Draw a small example of what the background looks like.



My Camouflaged Animal:

Now, imagine and design your own camouflaged animal which will hide on your chosen background! What ways will it camouflage or hide itself?

Think about some of the types of camouflage below for your animal:

Colour

Pattern

Countershading

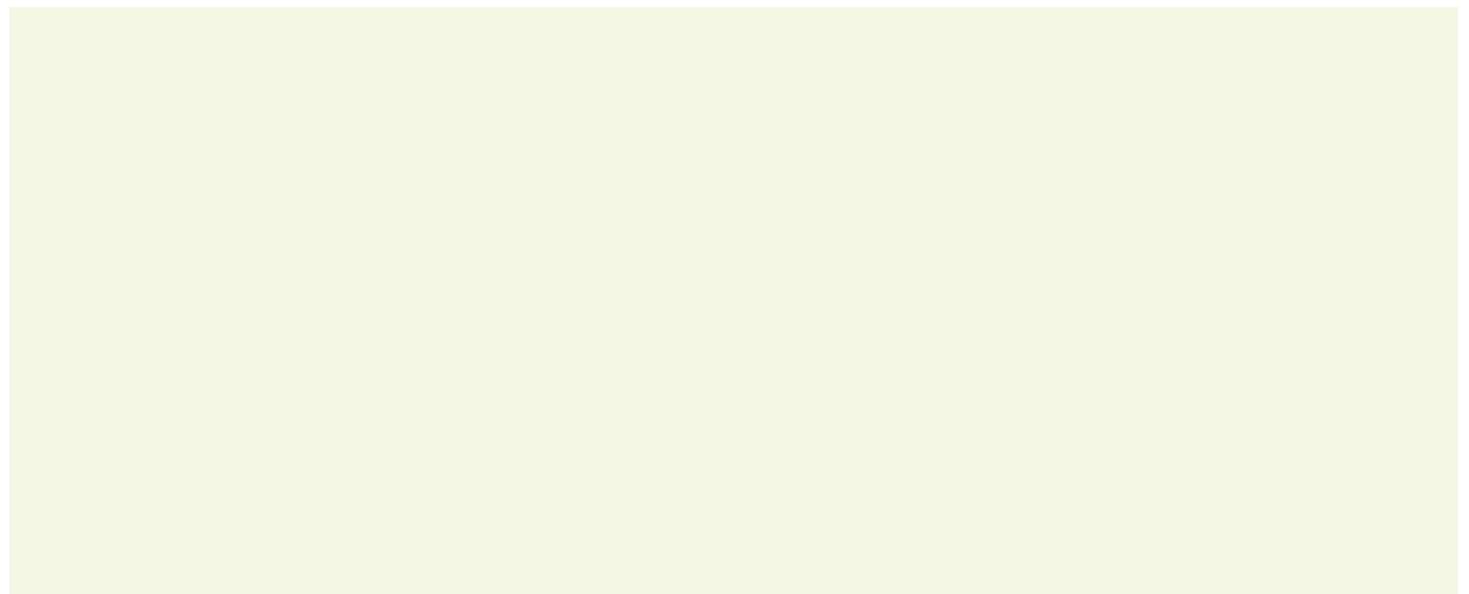
Eye-stripe

What is my animal's name:

What kind of animal is it? (for example: bird, butterfly etc.)

Describe your animal (size, colours, pattern):

Draw your camouflaged animal here:



Answers to Page 2 Questions: There are lots of correct answers to these, but some examples are 1: Grey Squirrel; 2: Butterfly; 3: Badger