

## EDUCATOR'S GUIDE

# Camouflage

## Preparation

### Overview and Objectives

This lesson is geared toward an adult audience interested in learning more about camouflage.

Within the animal world, the ability to sneak up on prey or hide from enemies is a fundamental mechanism for survival. The collective techniques used to conceal one's presence or to visually deceive others is known as camouflage. Learning from the animal world, humans have employed camouflage in hunting and warfare. Examples of this can be found on board *Intrepid*. This program focuses on four different types of camouflage found in nature and asks participants to determine what use this type of camouflage may have for a ship or aircraft.

This lesson includes a [slideshow](#) in which an instructor can lead participants through an exploration of two supersonic aircraft. The lesson culminates with participants camouflaging various aircraft in different environments!

### Instructional Modalities

This activity was designed for both synchronous or asynchronous instruction.

For **synchronous instruction**, we recommend a platform that allows both for whole class discussion and for students to interact in small groups.

For **asynchronous adaptations**, we provide suggestions for teachers to provide additional support for the activities and for students to share their work with each other.

### Materials

- [Camouflage Slideshow](#)

### Discussion

### Connections

What colors are you drawn to?

What colors are present in your day-to-day environment?

How do you use color to blend in or stand out?

- **Coloring Pencils**
- [Camouflage Worksheet \(p.4\)](#)
- [Camouflage Hide and Seek Plane Templates](#)

## Lesson

### 1. Introductory Activity

- Ask Participants:
  - **What do you already know about camouflage?**
  - **What are different ways that animals can hide in nature?**
  - **Why is it helpful for certain animals to hide?**
  - **Why might it be helpful for a military aircraft to hide?**
- Discuss the responses with the group.

### 2. Core Activity

- Inform participants they will be learning about camouflage and different types of camouflage found in nature.
- Look through slides 9-12 in the [slideshow](#) and have participants identify where they have seen that camouflage before. Have participants share out and ask why it might be helpful to an animal or military ship/aircraft
  - **Where might this type of camouflage be the most effective?**
  - **Where might this type of camouflage be the least effective?**
- Have participants cut out and color a [blank plane template](#) so it blends in with a specific spot in their home. Have them place their camouflaged aircraft creations where they can hide in plain sight and challenge their families to find them!
- Have participants discuss with their family which camouflaged aircraft was the most effective and why?
  - **How can we improve the camouflage we created?**

## Asynchronous Adaptation

Have participants go through the [slideshow](#) on their own. Using their worksheet, participants can identify where they can see the four different types of camouflage in

nature. cut out and color a [blank plane template](#) so it blends in with a specific spot in their home. Have them place their camouflaged aircraft creations where they can hide in plain sight and challenge their families to find them! Participants can take photographs of their work and share them with their peers in a shared folder.

## Extension Activities

To deepen participant engagement with this content, you may choose to add the following activities :

### **Hide in an Environment**

Have participants take a picture in which they try to camouflage with your environment. An example could be wearing clothes that matches your blankets. if camouflage isn't an option, you can put on warning colors! What kind of environment will make you stand out in a striking way?

### **Learn More about Camouflaged Aircraft**

Have participants watch videos on the [Kfir](#) and [MiG-21](#) to learn a bit more about the two camouflaged aircraft on display at the Museum.

## Additional Resources/ References

### **Smithsonian Library and Archives:**

#### **From This to That: Camouflage to Conceptual Art**

<https://learninglab.si.edu/collections/from-this-to-that-camouflage-to-conceptual-art/pLYyBtobaiOWv2IV>

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## ACTIVITY 1: CAMOUFLAGE IN NATURE

### Directions:

As you see each type of camouflage, identify where you may have seen this camouflage before in nature.

Type of Camouflage	Where might we see this camouflage in nature?
<p><b>Obscuring camouflage</b> attempts to blend the object into the environment to appear invisible. The object's coloration or covering is designed to match the visual appearance of the anticipated background.</p>	
<p><b>Disruptive camouflage</b> uses bright and contrasting colors which creates visual cues that confuse the camouflaged object's true features. This prevents the observer from accurately identifying key characteristics, such as shape, size, speed and direction of travel.</p>	
<p><b>Countershading</b> cancels out the shading that comes from natural overhead sunlight since the object is darker on the top and lighter underneath. The result in both land and sea dwelling animals is that the animal appears flatter, which conceals their presence to predators.</p>	
<p><b>Mimicry camouflage</b> makes an object appear to be something very different than what it actually is. By taking on the characteristics or appearance of something else, an animal may appear to be less desirable as a meal or even dangerous.</p>	