



Camouflage: How Does it Help Animals Survive?

Animals use camouflage to help them survive in the wild. Camouflage is a natural coloring that helps them blend into their natural surroundings. Animals use camouflage for protection from predators or for hunting purposes. In this game, you can discover how camouflage is an important adaptation animals use to survive.

In this game, students can see what color bean (animal) can survive best in the environment (background) that they are placed.

Things you need:

- 2 color types of beans (10 of each color a dark and light bean work best)
- 2 different backgrounds (wrapping paper or different pieces of fabric that have designs on them work well and usually the size of a standard piece of paper or slightly bigger)
- A partner

Procedure:

1. Have one person close their eyes while the other person spreads all 20 beans on a background. When the beans are placed, player 1 tells player 2 to open their eyes.
2. Player 2 picks up the first 5 beans they can find.
3. Then record what color of beans they picked in the chart.
4. Player 2 closes eyes again as Player 1 mixes up the remaining 15 beans on the background. Then tells Player 2 to open, find 5 beans, and record.
5. Repeat the process one more time with the remaining 10 beans and record.
6. Switch roles and backgrounds and repeat steps.



Results:

Player: _____

Round	Bean Color 1	Bean Color 2
Round 1		
Round 2		
Round 3		

Player: _____

Round	Bean Color 1	Bean Color 2
Round 1		
Round 2		
Round 3		

	Bean Color 1	Bean Color 2
Total for both Players		

For older kids-Complete the questions

1. Which bean was chosen the most? Why do you think you picked that bean color over the other bean color?

2. What color of background would have been better for the bean?

3. If the bean represented an animal, what would happen to the population of animal in the wild?

4. What are some examples of animals using camouflage in the wild?