

Fun Camouflage Vest

(Adapted from Project Wild's Growing Up Wild, 2011)

Essential Question:

How does the adaptation of camouflage help animals survive?

Objective:

Students will be able to define camouflage, imagine an animal using camouflage in its habitat, and create a wearable camouflage vest.

Background:

Adaptations are body parts and behaviors that help plants and animals survive. Camouflage, or the ability to blend in with the environment, is a type of adaptation. Color, shapes, patterns, and textures are all ways for something to camouflage. It can help prey hide from predators, and it also helps predators blend in better so prey don't see them coming.

Materials:

- Large Paper Grocer Bag
- Scissors
- Choose your decorative tools:
 - Paint and paintbrushes
 - Crayons and markers
 - String
 - Tape
 - Stickers



Procedure:

Step 1:

Imagine you are an animal – an animal no one has ever met before. Your animal is going to use camouflage as an adaptation for survival. Why does your animal need to camouflage? What are different ways animals can camouflage? Imagine where your animal lives. How would it need to look to have the ability to camouflage?

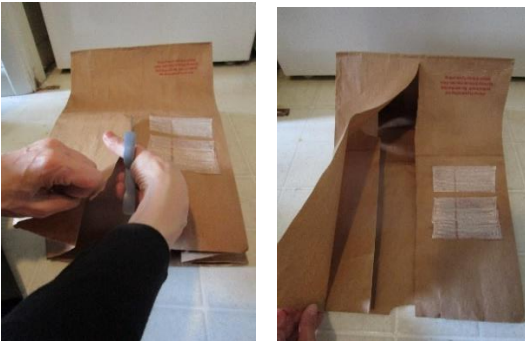
Step 2:

Turn your paper bag upside-down. Cut out circular arm holes in both sides near the bottom (which is now at the top because it's upside-down).



Step 3:

Lay the bag on the floor and cut a slit from the open top area down the middle of the main area all the way to the closed bottom of the bag.



Step 4:

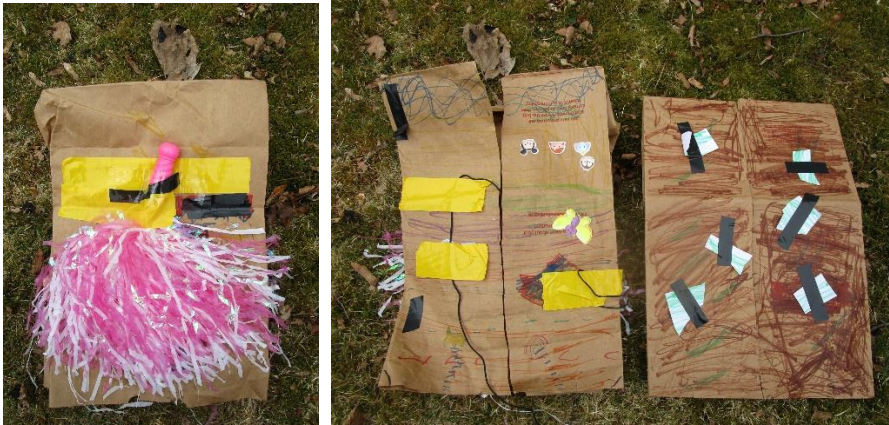
At the bottom of the bag (at the end of where you just cut), cut out a circular collar.



Step 5:

Decorate your vest so that it would camouflage in your imaginary habitat.

Which one do you think blends in with the mermaid habitat full of pink seaweed?



Step 6:

Try on your vest! Put a piece of tape “button” on the front opening to help keep it closed. Decorate that too!



Conclusion and Assessment:

Ask the people in your household to describe the habitat they think you live in by looking at your camouflaged vest.

Name your animal and write a story about how it survives in its habitat.

On a large piece of poster paper, or on many regular-sized pieces of paper taped together, color your habitat background. Put it up on the wall, and stand in front of it. Take a picture! Do you blend in well?