

Section 1

Understanding Life Systems

EXPLORATION 2

How does camouflage work?

Explore how animals disguise themselves.

In the wild, animals strive to survive. Some of them use camouflage to help them. Camouflage is a way that animals adopt to blend themselves into their environment to make it difficult for prey animals or predators to detect them. For example, chameleons are widely known for their ability to change colour to match their surroundings. This helps them hide from prey animals while hunting and stay safe from predators.

My clothing camouflages me so I blend in with the surroundings.

Four of us have camouflaged ourselves in these bushes. Can you spot us?

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How does camouflage work?

In this experiment, you will see how camouflage helps animals hide.

**Level of
Difficulty:**

easy

**Time
Needed:**

1 hour

Hypothesis:

Circle the word to show your hypothesis.

An object is **less / more** noticeable when its colour is similar to its surroundings.

Materials:

- pipe cleaners in 6 colours (red, yellow, green, brown, white, black)
- a bowl
- a timer
- string

Steps:

1. Cut the pipe cleaners into pieces about 3 cm long. Prepare ten pieces in each colour.
2. Mix the pieces in the bowl.
3. Make a circle with the string on the grass in your backyard.
4. Spread the pieces within the circle.
5. Set the timer for 20 seconds.
6. Step inside the circle and pick up as many pieces as you can before the time is up.
7. Count the pieces collected and record your results.



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My Record

Colour	No. of Pieces
red	
yellow	
green	
brown	
white	
black	

Conclusion:

Read the conclusion. Circle the correct word.

Through the experiment, you should have noticed that you picked up fewer green pieces from the grass compared to pieces of other colours.

My hypothesis was **correct / incorrect** .

Explanation:

Although there were the same number of pieces in each colour of pipe cleaners, you picked up fewer green pieces because the green pipe cleaners blended into the green grass, making it difficult to spot them. In nature, this is how camouflage works. Animals have colours similar to their surroundings. For example, ants are brown to blend into the soil, and arctic foxes are white to blend into the snow. This helps keep them undetected in their habitats.

The green caterpillar is blending in with the green grass.

