

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?

- **Handheld Camera or Phone Camera**

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 take a picture in which they try to camouflage with their 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?
- Have participants share their photographs with the group. Whose camouflage was the most effective and why?
 - **What can we do to blend in with our environments even more?**

Asynchronous Adaptation

Have participants go through the [slideshow](#) on their own. Participants can take photographs of themselves camouflaged in an environment 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 :

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>

The Museum is deeply grateful to the funders that make our education programs possible:



*This project was made possible in part by the
Institute of Museum and Library Services, Award ID:
CAGML-247144-OMLS-20*