



The Nature of the Bronx

TEACHER RESOURCE GUIDE

CREATURE FEATURES

Lesson 1: Camouflaged Critters

1ST-3RD GRADE



Nature of the Bronx

CREATURE FEATURES**Lesson 1: Camouflaged Critters****Lesson Description**

Are you good at hide and seek? These Bronx animals are! Join Bronx Children's Museum's Education Director Nicole Wallace as she shares with us the amazing adaptation of camouflage.

Video Link: www.bronxchildrensmuseum.org/nbx-creature-features

Age/Grade	6-9 years old; 1st-3rd Grade
Time to complete activity	Total Time: 32-52 minutes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Before You Watch: 10-20 minutes</i> • <i>Video Length: approx. 12 minutes</i> • <i>After You Watch: 10-20 minutes</i>
Learning Outcomes	Children will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare and contrast how different animals are adapted for survival • Learn how camouflage helps an animal to survive
Standards	1-LS1-1, 1-LS3-2, 2-LS2-1, 3-LS3-2, 3-LS4-2
Materials	<input type="checkbox"/> Construction paper <input type="checkbox"/> Oil pastels or crayons <input type="checkbox"/> Glue Dots or Tape
Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camouflage: something (such as color or shape) that protects an animal from attack by making the animal difficult to see in the area around it • Habitat: the place or type of place where a plant or animal naturally or normally lives or grows • Adaptation: a change in a plant or animal that makes it better able to live in a particular place or situation

Tips for Success

- ❑ Watch the film on your own before showing it to children; identify any words or images that may require additional information or explanation.
- ❑ Prepare all the materials beforehand, and don't be afraid to substitute for what you have available.
- ❑ Stop the video or replay certain moments to allow for questions or comments from the children.

Before You Watch...

Do	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Set up the classroom for the activity. You might want to add tablecloths to the workspace, or ask children to wear smocks or aprons. ❑ Make sure each child has their own set of supplies. ❑ If children are participating remotely, make sure they have all the materials set up at home in advance.
Discuss	<p>Choose a few questions from the list below to ask your children. Keeping your questions open-ended will get your children speaking more and allow them to express themselves more than a simple “yes or no” question. Offer your own answer to the question as a way to model conversation!</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>What animals live here in the Bronx? Where do they live?</i> ● <i>Why do some animals have particular colors or body parts? How would that help them survive?</i>
Share	Remind children that doing the project takes time! Watch the video first, and do the project after.
Extend	Learn more about animal adaptations by watching this video from PBS Kids.

After You Watch...

Do	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Distribute paper and oil pastels to each child. ❑ Ask children to choose one animal that is good at camouflaging and to think about its habitat: what colors would it have? What features? ❑ Children should first use a white pastel/crayon to draw a broad outline of their background habitat. Using colors of the habitat, they can then color in the background. ❑ On a separate piece of paper, children should draw a broad outline of their animal and again use the white pastel to segment the outline into different shapes. These shapes are then colored in using the same colors as the background. ❑ Finally, children should tape or glue their critter onto its background.
Discuss	<p>Select a few questions to ask children about their experiences creating their camouflaged critters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <i>What type of habitat does your animal live in? What colors would you find there?</i> ● <i>How does your animal camouflage with its surroundings?</i> ● <i>Does your animal have any other features which might help it protect itself?</i>
Share	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ask children to explain the process of creating their drawings in sequential order: “First I did this...then I did this...” ● Ask children to share their camouflaged critters with others (via live meet-ups, Google classroom, FlipGrid, etc.). Encourage each child to try to find someone else’s camouflaged critter.
Extend	<p>Play this cool camouflage game!</p>

STEAM Share!

Share your class’ work with BxCM! Take a picture of your camouflaged critters or make a video of the children showing and talking about their work.

Upload your photos here: www.bronxchildrensmuseum.org/artwork-upload.

For more information, contact:

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