

LITTLE OCTOPUS CD-ROM

LESSON SIX: Colors Under the Sea Part Two

SCIENCE TOPIC: Animals use color in different ways.

Science Objectives

Students will:

- describe purpose of color in animals

Correlations

K-2 Life Science

- Plants and animals have features that help them live in different environments.

Materials

- The story
- CD lesson: Camouflage—Blending, Disruptive Coloration
- Activity pages: S13

INTRODUCTION

Explain to students that a coral reef is like an underwater rainforest. It's filled with an amazing variety of animal life. Go through the story using the book (or the e-book version) and review the colors of the different animals that the students learned about previously: parrotfish, butterflyfish, etc.

Animal Colors

Objectives

1. Students will describe the purpose of color in animals.

Blending

Many sea creatures use color to blend with, or match, the reef. In the Camouflage unit, click on Blending.

Ask students, "How do you think some animals use color to hide?" Play the narrated text for the students then click on the photo examples. You can play or read the captions.

Some animals have colors that match the reef or the sand.

Other animals, like the octopus, can change their color to match.

Why would you want to blend in so you couldn't be seen? (To keep from being eaten. To hide when you are hunting for food.) Both predators and prey use blending.

Disruptive Coloration

In the Camouflage unit, click on Disruptive Coloration and play the text.

A parrotfish can have many bright colors on its body. An angelfish can have bright colored stripes.

at-a-glance

Review the story with students. Point out some of the different animals in the story.

CD: Camouflage
Click on the lesson on Blending

CD: Camouflage
Disruptive Coloration

at-a-glance

CD: Reef Critters
Go to Scene 3 and
click on nudibranchs

Follow-up:
S13 Camouflage Art

CD: Camouflage
Find Me activity

Learning Center:
Camouflage Art

Ask students, “Why would having lots of bright colors help an animal?” It’s harder to see the real shape and size of animals with many bright colors and patterns. Stripes and spots on a fish can help it to hide in the coral or the sea grass.

Color as Warning

Some animals use color in a different way. They don’t try to hide. Sea slugs have bright colors on their bodies. They use color to warn other animals that they taste bad.

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

Students can complete one of the following activities.

S13 Camouflage Art: Students use crayons to color a coral background and matching fishes OR cut coral and fishes from color ads and paste them on construction paper.

In a computer learning center, pairs of students can play the Find Me game in the Camouflage unit of the CD-ROM.
(This can also be done as a group activity with the whole class.)

Learning Center: Camouflage art

ASSESSMENT

What are some ways that animals use color?

How does a predator use color to hunt?

How does color keep an animal from being eaten?