

MISTER SEAHORSE SCIENCE LESSON

Objectives

- Students will learn about different types of camouflage.

Correlations

K-2 Life Science

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

Materials

- *Mister Seahorse* by Eric Carle
- The Little Octopus CD lesson: Camouflage, Reef Critters
- Activities: CD-Rom Find Me game; art/science activity; SI 3: Camouflage;

INTRODUCTION

Introduce the story, *Mister Seahorse*.

VOCABULARY

Introduce or review the following words before reading the story.

- drift
- pouch
- hatch
- blend

STORY

Read the story aloud first. As you go through the story, point out the different animals that are hidden. Go back through the story and talk about how the animals hid. What helped the trumpetfish to hide in the reeds? (*shape, color*) How about the lionfish? (*shape and color*) the leaf fish? Why does the stonefish have that name? (*it looks like a rock*) How did all of these animals hide? (*They blended in with their surroundings*)

CD Lesson: Camouflage

Objectives: Why do animals need to blend in with their surroundings? How do they do this?

Open the unit on camouflage and click on the lesson called Blending on the CD. What are some of the ways that animals can blend with their surroundings? Find examples of each.

- They can use color.
- They can use their body shape.

Click on the lesson on Disruptive Coloration. Many fish have stripes or spots or bright splashes of color. How does this help them to hide?

- They can use pattern.

at-a-glance

Read Eric Carle's *Mr. Seahorse*

CD-ROM Lesson:
Camouflage
Blending

Disruptive
coloration

at-a-glance

CD-ROM Lesson:
Reef Critters
Students find prey
and predators

Learning center:
Students color
animals to match a
background

Print Activity S13
Camouflage
Print Hide and Seek
Activity (attached)

CD-ROM Lesson:
Camouflage
Students play the Find
Me game

Why do animals use camouflage?

- to keep from being eaten (prey)
- to get food (predator)

In the story, why do you think the trumpet fish were hiding? What about the lionfish? the leaf fish? the stonefish?

In the Reef Critters lesson, look for animals that use camouflage to keep from being eaten. (sea turtle, schooling fish)

Then find some animals who use camouflage to hunt for food. (octopus, eel)

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES

The hardbound version of Mister Seahorse uses acetate pages for hiding the animals on the different pages. Using markers, color two or three different scenes on plastic transparencies. Have one with seaweed or seagrass, one with coral, one with a rocky reef. Give students a page with fish of the same shape or a variety of shapes. (You can also give them a variety of simple animals, like the starfish and the clam.) Have them color the animals using different colors and patterns and then try to hide them in the reef scenes by placing the template over the them.

An alternative is to print Activity S13 from the CD and have students color, cut and paste a camouflage scene.

Print the attached Hide and Seek activity. Students find the animals then color them to blend with their surroundings.

Students can try to find real animals hidden on the coral reef in the Find Me game on the CD-ROM.

ANIMAL HIDE AND SEEK

Directions: Can you find all 5 animals that are hiding on the reef? Color each animal to match its hiding place.

