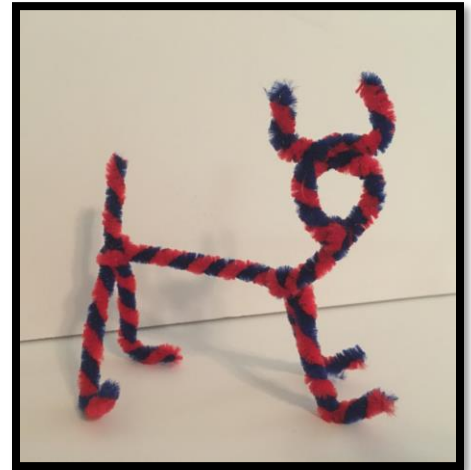


### Supplies Needed:

- Chenille Sticks – at least 2 different colors for each person

### Instructions:

Most animal species have developed some sort of natural camouflage that helps them survive. Sometimes camouflage allows the animal to be a better predator, hiding from its prey. Other times, it helps the animal not become prey for a predator.



- **Concealing Coloration:** this type of camouflage is when an organism hides itself against the background color. For example, a white snowshoe hare blends in well with the white snow/ice of the polar region where it lives. Therefore, it would be hard for a predator of the snowshoe hare to see the hare from a distance.
- **Disruptive Coloration:** this type of camouflage is when an organism has stripes, spots, or other patterns and the coloration makes it hard for other organisms to see the outline of their bodies. When a large herd of zebras are standing together, it is hard for a lion to see an individual zebra. Similarly, leopards have spots that help them hide in the shadows of branches so they can surprise their prey.
- **Disguise:** this is a type of camouflage where an organism blends into their surroundings by their shape and/or texture rather than color. (Blending into their surroundings using color would be concealing coloration.) Katydid, Indian leaf butterfly, and Walking sticks all use disguise to blend into their surroundings.
- **Mimicry:** some organisms will mimic other organisms in color, shape, and/or texture. For example, Monarch butterflies are toxic, but the Viceroy butterfly, which is not toxic, looks like the Monarch butterfly. Therefore, some animals will not prey on the Viceroy butterfly because it looks like the Monarch butterfly.

Take at least two different colored chenille sticks and create an animal(s). Remember there are lots of different types of animals – mammals, birds, fish, insects, etc. Once you are finished creating the animal, ask a friend to hide the animal(s) along a hiking trail, section of woods, in a flower garden, etc. Walk the area/trail quietly, looking for your creature. Did your animal exhibit any of the different types of camouflage? Try the activity again, using new colors for your animal. What did you notice with the new coloration?

Developed By: Kasey Bozeman, Extension 4-H Specialist, 2020.

### References:

“Watch for Walking Sticks.” (1998). *Ranger Rick’s NatureScope Incredible Insects*. National Wildlife Federation.

