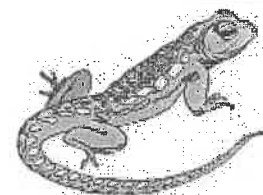


Camouflage



¹ Soldiers on a combat mission often wear camouflage clothing. Camouflage helps them stay out of their enemy's sight and launch a successful attack! In nature, many animals use camouflage, too. And often, it is far superior to a soldier's uniform. Are you curious to know just how innovative some animals' camouflage can be? Here are some examples:



²

- Leaf butterflies have a pair of brown wings with markings mimicking leaf stalks and veins. When they rest on a tree branch, they fold their wings upright over their backs. To the eyes of a potential predator, such as a bird, leaf butterflies look just like real leaves on a tree!

³

- Angler fish like to rest their broad, flat bodies on the seabed. Their dark skin color is the same shade as that of the sediment. Anglers wiggle a fleshy growth that hangs over their head near their mouths. This fleshy growth, a part of their dorsal spine, looks like a worm. When an unsuspecting fish swims near to eat the "worm", anglers swallow it so quickly that the poor fish doesn't even have time to know what happened!

⁴

- Chameleons can change their colors to match their surroundings or to reflect their mood in under five minutes! With a flick of their long, sticky-tipped tongues, chameleons strike before their victim sees where the assault came from!

⁵

- In the far north, Arctic foxes manage to change the color of their fur coats twice a year. Their fur is white during the winter months. Their prey cannot easily spot them among the snow and ice. When spring arrives and the snow melts, Arctic foxes' fur changes to brownish gray to camouflage them against the summer landscape.

⁶ It's always amazing to learn how animals have adapted to their natural environments. Ultimately, animals disguise themselves for one of two reasons - either to avoid being seen by their enemies or to launch a successful ambush!

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