

Critter Camouflage

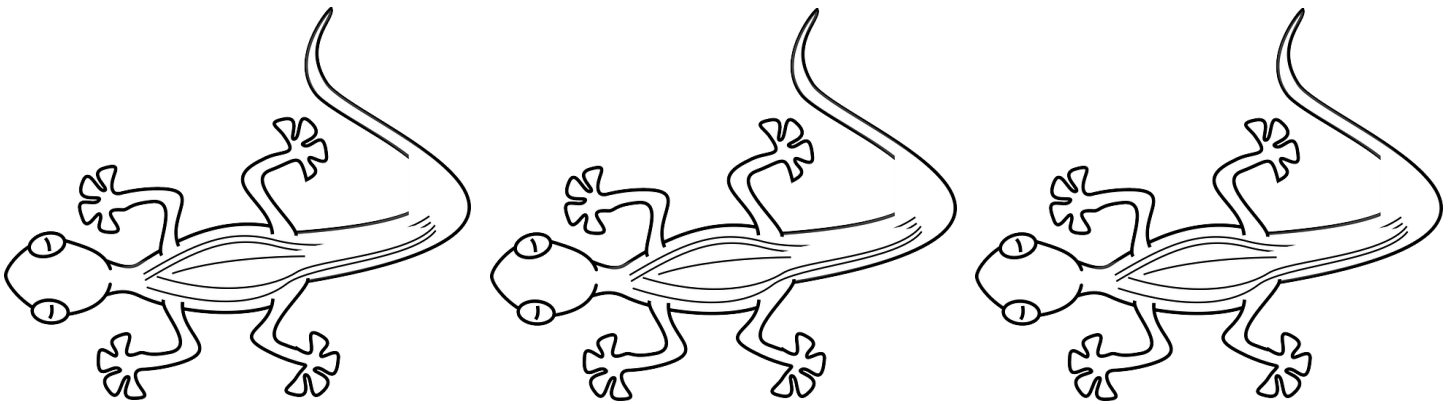
Camouflage is a special adaptation that some animals use to hide from predators. Animals that are camouflaged use color, texture, and pattern to blend into their surroundings. For example, a rattlesnake is well camouflaged because it has beige, bumpy skin that looks like the desert home where it lives.

Activity #1: Camouflage Crafting

Challenge: Camouflage the lizard so that it can survive in its habitat.

Guiding Question: What colors, patterns, and textures are best for camouflage?

- Walk around your home and choose three different backgrounds, or “habitats” for your lizards.
- Cut out the lizard images below. Color them in to camouflage against the three different habitats that you chose.
- Hide them in their habitats and see if a family member or friend can find them!



Activity #2: Build a Critter

Challenge: Build an animal out of natural materials that you find outside.

Guiding Question: How well does your critter camouflage with a body made out of natural materials?

Many animals camouflage by having body parts that look like other natural objects. Some insects have bodies that look like twigs or dead leaves. Some birds have feathers patterned like tree bark.

- Collect some natural materials from around your neighborhood. See if you can find leaves, rocks, sticks, pinecones, or anything else to build your critter!
- Using the natural materials that you found, build an animal! You can choose any animal that you want to create. Try to use as many natural materials as you can, but you can also use glue to hold the pieces together. See examples to the right.

