Crafting Camouflage

SUITABLE FOR: K-6th grade
ACTIVITY LENGTH: 30 minutes to 1 hour

In this activity,

You will choose an object from your home and create a camouflage cover to hide it in plain sight!

Ideas to Explore

Camouflage is a type of disguise that makes something blend in with its background, making it difficult to see. Many animals and military uniforms use camouflage to help them hide in the outdoors. During World War II, camouflage was used to hide the entire Boeing factory! A very important military airplane, the B-17 bomber, was being built at the factory, and the American government was worried that the factory might be attacked by enemy airplanes. To keep it safe, the huge building was covered, and on top of it, people built fake streets, fake trees, and even fake houses! To airplanes flying overhead, the camouflaged factory looked like an ordinary neighborhood on a hill.

Words to Know:

Camouflage: a disguise that allows a person or object to blend in with their surroundings.
Before you start!

Choose a small object from your home to hide. Small objects like a spoon, a LEGO®, a button, or a small toy will be easiest to hide because they will fit underneath your paper. Next, choose a hiding spot, either outside or inside, for the object. You can take a picture of the hiding spot, if you need to remember what it looks like!

Stuff You’ll Need:

- A small object that you plan to hide
- Paper
- Paint and paint brushes, or markers
- Glue
- Items to glue to your camouflage covering. For example, if your object will be hiding outside, collect some leaves or twigs.

Now, Make it!

Step One

Use paint or markers to make your paper look like your hiding spot! Be sure to color your paper all the way to the edges so there is no white showing. Keep in mind, it doesn’t have to be detailed to be good camouflage!
Step Two
Collect some 3D objects that would naturally be found in hiding spot. If your hiding spot is your backyard, these objects might be twigs or leaves. If your hiding spot is your kitchen, maybe you've picked some cereal that has spilled on the floor!

Step Three
Glue the 3D objects onto your camouflage cover.

Step Four
Place the object you are hiding in its hiding spot and cover it with the camouflage. Take a step back and admire your work! Be careful not to lose the object you've hidden!

Did your camouflage work?

Share it!
Share your camouflage with us on your social channels tagging @BoeingAcademy for a chance to be featured!
Want More?

• A lot of airplanes at The Museum of Flight are painted with camouflage to help them hide. Take a look through our Aircraft Collection and see if you can spot any airplanes with camouflage! Can you guess by the color of camouflage where each airplane was meant to hide?

During your next visit to The Museum of Flight

• Head over to the Aviation Pavilion and check out our B-17F Flying Fortress! This plane was made in the Boeing factory during WWII.

So cool!

Make it Connect!

Animals use many techniques to help them camouflage themselves in the wild. Some animals, like stick bugs, mimic objects in their environment. Other animals, like octopi and chameleons, actively change color to blend in with their surroundings. Sometimes animals hide by decorating their bodies with objects from their environment, like turtles that let algae grow on their shells.

All of these animals adapted to hide themselves in their environment. What happens when the environment starts to change? There are about 20 species of animals that change color seasonally like the arctic fox and some species of caribou. They turn white in the winter to better blend in with snowy environments. As the climate changes world-wide, how do you think that will impact these animals?