

Camouflage Game

Everyone loves hide and seek, but animals take it to the extreme. Many animals have amazing **adaptations** that help them camouflage (hide) from predators. Let's see if we can be as great at hiding as a prey animal.

You will need at least one more person from your household to play with you. Try taking turns being the spotter or "predator" for each round. If you only have one hider or "prey", do multiple rounds of each version changing up how you hide.

Don't forget to create clear boundaries for hiding. All hiders or "prey" should be able to see the predator from their hiding spots. It works best outside, but you can get creative and play inside.

Color

Decide who is the predator and who is prey. The prey selects a variety of colored clothing, such as red, brown, white, checkered or striped, and then spread out to hide in your established area. The predator closes their eyes and counts to 10. At 10, the predator opens their eyes and **WITHOUT MOVING**, tries to spot the prey.

Shape

Employ the same tactics and rules as above, but this time the prey must "hide" by molding their body shape to natural surroundings, like trees, rocks, bushes, or terrain. Prey can also lay along a log or curl up next to a rock.

Size

This time, the prey should try to hide by making themselves big or small. Prey can make themselves big next to a large tree or small by laying low to the ground. You can also use different sized objects to hide that include a variety of colors.

Inside Version

Collect a variety of stuffed animals and other toys and gather them into a single room. Ask the predator to step out of the room and cover their eyes. Hide all of the toys as best you can throughout the room - think about where they might be best camouflaged. When all are hidden, have the predator return and try to find all the toys. Which were hardest and easiest to find?

- Hint: Don't forget to count the toys before you hide them to make sure the predator finds everyone.

Post-Activity Questions and Activities

- Which colors, shapes, and sizes worked best to camouflage the prey?
- What are some animals that use color, shape, and/or size to camouflage?
- Can you think of some prey animals that don't camouflage at all? How do they keep safe?