



"Camouflage Creatures"

AGE: All ages

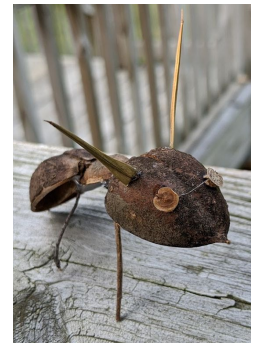
DURATION: 15-30 min (crafting only), 30min-1 hr (with camouflage walk)

GOAL: To create animals out of natural materials and hide them (in plain sight!) for the group to discover.

RESOURCE PAGES: N/a

Description

Each person will craft their own animal (can be made up!) out of natural materials. Encourage participants to come up with their own name for the creature and other aspects of its life (where it lives, what it eats, and so on). They will then hide it (in plain sight!) on the trail/in the defined area. Once everyone has had a chance to hide their animal, the group can adventure together to try and spot them all. Whenever one is found, the creator will have time to talk about it. If the animal is walked passed - don't say anything! At the end, those that were not found can be revealed by their creator. It's also nice if you go back and point in the general area so the group has another chance to spot it.



Key Concepts

- Camouflage
- Adaptations
- Awareness and observation
- Naming (using features of the animal or behavior)

Materials

- Natural objects
- Art supplies (glue, paint, eyes, string, so on)



If there aren't many nuts/seeds/sticks in the area, they can create their creature using leaves and/or grass. They can glue the natural objects to paper and cut their creature out.

Preparation

- Gather materials
- Have kids gather their own natural materials



Opening Activities and Safety

Opening circle to discuss key concepts - see "Questions to Pose" below for ideas on how to start. You should guide them freedom to use their own creativity. "Real" animals can be used as examples but the rest should be up to them. When designing their animals, prompt them to think of a name for their animal, where they live, what they eat, what eats them, and how they camouflage.

