

Camouflaged Insects
by Lanny and Marilyn Johnson

Billy and his sister were playing hide and seek in their backyard. After not being able to find her, Billy complained to his mother, "Mom, Mary is hiding too hard for me to find!"

"Let me give you a hint. She might be pretending to be something she's not. Look carefully and see if she's blending into something around her."

Eventually Billy saw Mary hiding in a bush. "That's cheating!" Billy cried out.

"No, Mary isn't cheating. She is just using camouflage to hide."

"What's camo ... uh, camo ... what ever you said. What does it mean?"

"The word is camouflage (ka-mu,flaazh), Billy. It is a way of hiding something by covering or coloring it so that it looks like its surroundings. By using the leaves of the bush as a disguise, Mary was able to make herself hard for you to see.

"God designed many animals (including birds, fish, insects, and plants) with different types of camouflage to help them survive. Some creatures have camouflage that helps them hide from hungry predators. On the other hand, some predator's camouflage helps them to sneak up or ambush their prey.

"There are basically three kinds of camouflage that animals use to conceal themselves. **Coloration**

- When a creature has the same color as its background.

Disguise - Instead of color, some animals imitate the texture or shape of the things around them. **Disruptive**

Coloration - Having spots, stripes or patterns that help animals to blend into their surroundings. Another type

of camouflage is called **Mimicry** - Animals that have shapes or markings that look like other animals that are poisonous or dangerous. Animals that use this type of camouflage are sometimes called imposters. ¹

"Kids, let's go inside and look at some pictures of insects I have studied. When you see the amazing camouflage they have, ask yourselves, 'Could they have ever looked like that by chance and accident as evolution teaches ... or was there an intelligent designer who designed them?'. I believe it could only be a wonderful Creator who cares and provides for His creation."



Aranyaparva / cc-by-3.0

Blue Mormon Caterpillar looks like bird poop.
Coloration and Disguise



Nick Goodrum / (42639410142) / cc-by-2.0

Buff-Tip Moth with closed wings looks like a broken branch.
Disruptive Coloration and Disguise



Nandini Velho / cc by-sa 3.0

A hunting **Walking Leaf Mantis** appears to be a leaf on a plant.
Coloration and Disguise



Henk Monsterec by-sa 3.0

Cicada with colors of background.
Coloration



Adrian Pingstone / Public Domain

A hunting **Dead Oak Leaf Mantis** resembles a dead leaf on a plant.
Coloration and Disguise



Vinayaraj / cc-by-4.0

Atlas Moth has wingtips that look like snake heads
Mimicry



Marshall Hedin / cc-by-2.0

Thorn Treehoppers appear to be thorns on a plant. *Coloration and Disguise*



Charlie Jackson / (49585572227) / cc-by-2.0

Almond-eyed Owl Butterfly looks like the eye of an owl. *Mimicry*



WildMadagascar.org

Walking Stick looks like twig of a plant. *Coloration and Disguise*

Reference

¹ <https://www.twinkl.com/teaching-wiki/camouflaged-animals>

WORDSEARCH

Look for the words from the **WORD LISTS** below. The hidden word might be up, down, sideways or slanted, but not backwards.

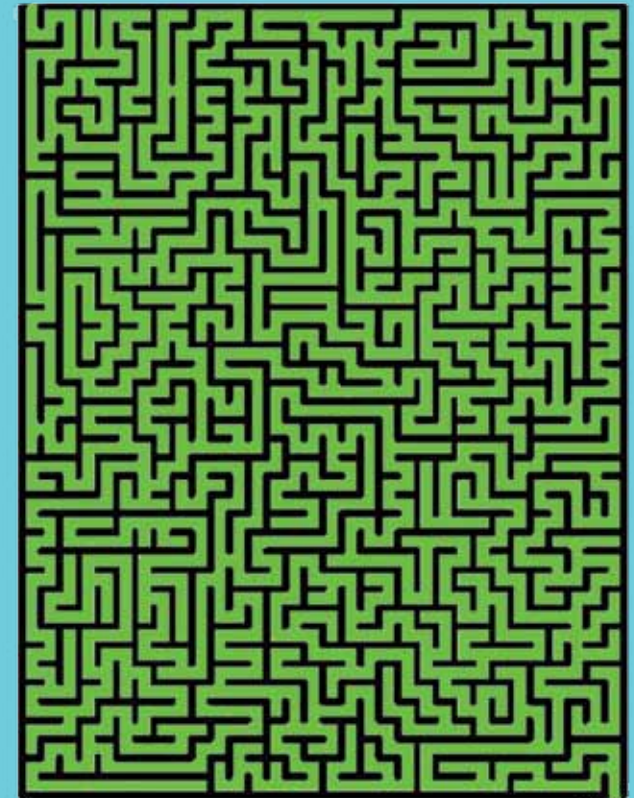


WORD LIST

- | | | |
|------------|------------|----------|
| CAMOUFLAGE | COLORATION | CREATION |
| DESIGNER | DISGUISE | HIDE |
| IMITATE | IMPOSTER | MIMICRY |
| PATTERNS | SHAPE | SPOTS |
| STRIPES | SURVIVE | TEXTURE |

Puzzles by Lanny Johnson © AOI 2022
Mazes adapted from krazydad.com/puzzles

Help the ladybug get through the maze of unseen predators to safety.



FOR ANSWERS GO TO: <http://www.discovercreation.org/kids/NewsletterAnswers.htm>