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## Secrets of Animal Camouflage

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Illustrated by Wesley Robbins

### Before Reading

- Read the title of the book while showing the cover to the children and ask if anyone can say what "camouflage" means.
- Explain that the book is about animals that are good at hiding. Have the group imagine there's a green frog in the room. Discuss where it might go to avoid being found. Discuss where a green frog might hide outside in nature.

### After Reading

- Ask the children in turn to choose an animal from the book and tell why they would or would not want to meet one face-to-face.
- Ask the group which kinds of camouflage they think were the best and why.

### Creative Writing/Storytelling

Ask the children to write a story. Younger children can tell or dictate to you for recording.

Encourage them to illustrate their stories.

- Imagine being able to hide in plain sight because you blend in with what's around you. Your camouflage makes you impossible to find! What animal are you? What do you look like? Where do you live? What other animals are around you? How long can you hide? What kinds of things will you do today?
- Children may act out their story with or without props and other characters.

### Camouflage Art

- Explain that a natural habitat is where an animal lives. Habitats can be cold, warm, in trees, in the grass, under the sea, etc.
- Provide each child with a drawing or a photo of an animal to glue in the middle of a blank piece of construction paper.
- Ask the children to draw a habitat for the animal that provides as much camouflage as they think is needed.

### Vocabulary Simon Says Game

Using the verbs from the book, play a special animal camouflage version of Simon Says:

Pounce

Croak

Bark

Prowl

Swim

Slither

Scurry

Float

Growl

Flick

Shake

Flutter

Stretch

Screech

Rest

Stare

Scuttle



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### **An Adjective a Day**

Explore the power of adjectives by choosing one from those used in the book and make it a focus throughout the day.

Beady-eyed

Creeping

Strange

Beautiful

Fierce

Tiny

Blue-ringed

Furry

White-tailed

Brightly colored

Long, leggy

Whitebanded

Busy

Nimble

- Post the word where everyone can see it, and explain what it means.
- Tell the children that you are all going to find things throughout the day that you can label with that word.
- This activity is not only silly and fun but contributes to cognitive skills development.

### **Guided Independent Study for Older Children**

- Have each child choose a creature or plant from the book and provide resources for them to use to find out as much as they can about it.
- Ask them to write several sentences or paragraphs about what they've learned.
- Students may want to present their project to the group.
- This project might also include

Drawings and photos

Video

Script for a skit

Diagrams

Posters/display boards

Sound effects

Diorama

Models (figures)

Costumes/masks\*

Maps

Songs

Sculpture