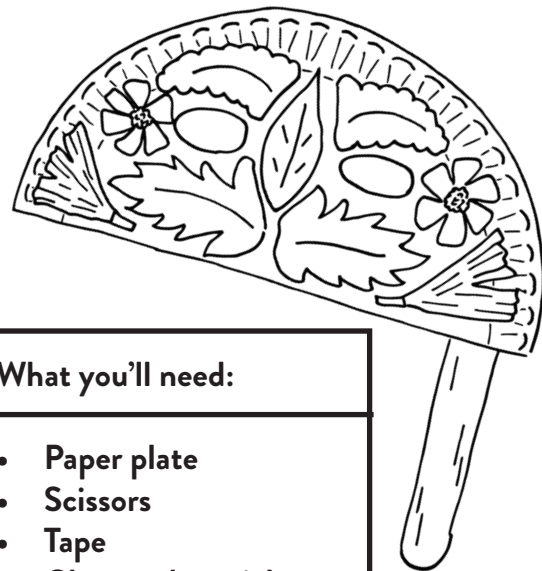


CAMOUFLAGE MASKS

Both plants and animals have adaptations to help them survive in their environments. One major adaptation is the ability to camouflage themselves. What is camouflage? Camouflage is when an insect or animal can blend into its surrounding environment or disguise itself somehow. They might have a pattern on their body that looks like a plant nearby or even makes it look like a bigger, more fierce animal. Predators use camouflage to disguise themselves as they sneak up on their prey, while prey try to blend in so predators can't find them.

Let's play camouflage hide and seek! But first we need to make a disguise so we can better camouflage ourselves.



What you'll need:

- Paper plate
- Scissors
- Tape
- Glue or glue stick
- Collected leaves and other plant parts
- Popsicle stick or straw

Step 1: With your guardian, go for a walk in your backyard, neighborhood, or a nearby park and collect some leaves and flowers and bring them back home. Pro tip: dried plant parts can be easier to attach to your mask, but fresh leaves and flowers work as well. Be sure that you're allowed to pick the plant material before you do. Try to only pick one or two leaves or flowers from a single plant. We want to make sure that these plants continue to grow and thrive and aren't damaged!



Step 2:

Cut a paper plate in half.



Step 3:

Bring the paper plate up to your face and figure out the best placement for the eye holes, drawing two circles in the right positions. Carefully cut out the eye holes.



Step 4:

Tape your popsicle stick to one end of the flat edge of the paper plate.



Step 5: Position your collected leaves and plant parts on your mask just the way you want them. When you've got the pattern all settled, begin to glue your plant material to your plate. Pro tip: Once you finish, let the glue on your mask dry for about 30 minutes to an hour or you might start to molt as you wear your mask.

Step 6: Now it's time to put your mask to the test! With your friends, classmates, or siblings play hide and seek wearing your mask. While one of you counts to 30, the others should go find a place to hide and camouflage. Where is the best place to hide where you and your mask will blend into your surroundings?