

[From Spring 1993]

Kid's Korner - Adaptation for Survival

Hey kids! Did you know that animals camouflage themselves so they can adapt to their environment? Adaptation can protect animals from predators or from harsh weather. Many birds can hide in the tall grass and weeds like the Northern Bobwhite, making it hard to see them. You have to look even harder to see the Piping Plover in their sandy habitat. Here is a fun activity that you can do to see how animals can naturally camouflage themselves in their habitat.

Materials:

- Potato and White tempera paint
- Pins or glue
- Small natural things that you want to use as camouflage such as pine needles, straw, tree bark, sticks, nuts, berries, feathers, grass, weeds



Directions:

1. Paint a Potato white and let it dry.
2. Collect all of the natural things that you would put on your potato.
3. Glue or pin all of the natural things that you want to put on your potato to make your camouflage creature.
4. Find the place where you collected your natural things and mark it.
5. Place the camouflage potato somewhere in the open (do not hide it) and see if a friend can find where you put your camouflage creature.

Tina Everson
Chincoteague Refuge Intern

(Idea adapted from: Scott, Foresman - *Science*)