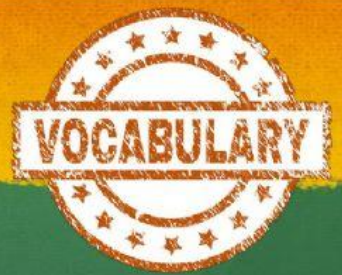# Science
Grade 4

Animal Adaptations
Mimicry and Camouflage

VOCABULARY

Habitat: the natural home or environment of an animal, plant, or other organism.

Adapt: to change something about your appearance, behavior, or surroundings to make it easier to live and survive

Physical Adaptation: any part of an organism's biology that helps them specifically to survive in their ecosystem.

Camouflage: a defense mechanism or tactic that organisms use to disguise their appearance, usually to blend in with their surroundings.

Mimicry: is when a plant or animal resembles another organism or imitate objects, either to gain other advantages or to stay alive.

Have you ever wondered how animals are able to survive in the wild?

Animals have certain adaptations that help them to survive.

Adaptation

Think about the way you dress in the winter. You don't wear your shorts and bathing suit when it's cold outside! You wear warm clothes, and maybe even a hat and mittens to protect yourself from the weather.

And what if you are playing hide and seek? You probably run away from the person who's "it" and try to hide well enough not to be found.

The way you dress for cold weather, as well as the way that you run and hide from someone looking for you are kinds of ADAPTATION.

We can separate adaptations into two categories:

PHYSICAL and BEHAVIOURAL

Physical adaptations

are body structures that allow an animal to find and consume food, defend itself, and to reproduce its species. Physical adaptations help an animal survive in its environment.
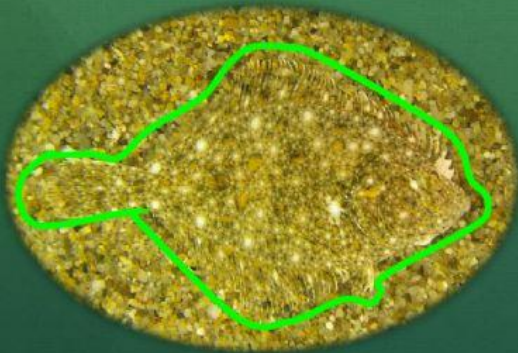
Stick bug

Physical Adaptation
Camouflage (use of color in a surrounding)

Some flatfish can change color to hide themselves on the sand.

The chameleon can change its color to match its surroundings.

Physical Adaptation
Mimicry
(looking or sounding like another living organism)

The Viceroy butterfly uses mimicry to look like the Monarch butterfly. Can you tell them apart?

Poisonous

Monarch!

Not Poisonous

Viceroy!

Why Use Mimicry and Camouflage?

- Live longer in order to grow old enough to reproduce
  - Therefore increase species longevity & pass on survival traits to offspring

- Camouflage to catch prey

- Camouflage to hide from predator

- Protect young or eggs