

Science Animal Adaptations

Animals are designed to survive in their particular environment. They have special features called **adaptations** that allow them to live where they do.

Adaptations is a **body part, behavior, covering** or **an action** that helps an animal survive in its environment.

Mimicry is an adaptation in which an animal looks like or sounds like another animal.

When animals copies the appearance, actions or sound of another animal that is called mimicry.

How does mimicry help animals?

Usually an animal will mimic another animal **to avoid predators**. If it can trick its way into thinking it is something less tasty or more dangerous it will survive.

Examples of animals that mimic:

- ✓ **A sea slug vs. a flat worm** (a sea slug gives off poisonous smelly chemicals to discourage predators)
- ✓ **King snake vs. Coral snake** (a king snake is harmless while the coral snake is venomous they both look very similar)

Camouflage is an animals colour, shape or pattern that **helps it blend in with its environment**.

Camouflage refers to an animals ability to blend in with its environment. Some animals are camouflaged to look like tree bark or dead leaves while others have patterning to look like rocks, sand and even bird droppings.

Examples of animals that camouflage:

- ✓ Chameleon
- ✓ Grass hopper
- ✓ Polar bear
- ✓ Caterpillar

Why are Mimicry and Camouflage important for animals?

Animal copycats **mimic** other animals (called models) **to fool their predators**. Most often the mimics make predators believe that they are an animal the predator fears or does not like to eat. Mimicry is an animal adaptation that helps some animals live longer.

Camouflage, also called **cryptic coloration**, is a defense or tactic that organisms use to disguise their appearance, usually to blend in with their surroundings. **Organisms use camouflage to mask their location, identity, and movement. This allows prey to avoid predators, and for predators to sneak up on prey.**



OWL BUTTERFLY MIMICRY: Eye spots on wings resemble owl eyes. When the butterfly spreads its wings, the eye spots may scare predators.

