

Black and White

OBJECTIVES

Students explore how disruptive coloration helps an animal hide.



MATERIALS

- glue or gluesticks
- black markers
- copy of page 23 for each student
- 12" by 9" white construction paper
- 6" by 9" black construction paper

BACKGROUND

It's easy for us to recognize a killer whale. But by the flickering, filtered sunlight in the sea, ocean animals may not recognize a killer whale as a predator. That's because its color pattern is a type of disruptive coloration; a killer whale's distinctive black and white color pattern contradicts its body shape. Giraffes, zebras, tigers, and many tropical reef fishes also have disruptive coloration.

Students find out how disruptive coloration helps conceal ocean animals.

ACTION

1. Discuss disruptive coloration with your students. Can they name animals with this kind of coloration?
2. Distribute copies of page 23.
3. Students cut out both of their killer whales and penguins.
4. Give each student a sheet of white construction paper and a smaller sheet of black construction paper. They place the white paper vertically on the work area and glue the black sheet of paper to the bottom half of the white paper. (The black paper will be the ocean; the white paper will be the land.) With markers, they can add landscape such as icebergs, etc.
5. Where the black sea meets the white land, students glue killer whale #1 so that the whale appears to be poking its head above water. They glue penguin #1 on land. They glue whale #2 and penguin #2 in the ocean.
6. Ask students to describe the effect of their art. How well are the animals concealed in the ocean? How well are they concealed on land?

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