

Topic Title: Camouflage

The following activities are intended to be used as a follow-up to the virtual tour of the Toronto Zoo's Americas pavilion, with a focus on animals are masters of camouflage.

ACTIVITY ONE – Hiding in Plain Sight

The gray treefrog is a small frog that lives in woodlands and forested areas close to ponds and lakes. It has 'warty' green, brown or grey skin with darker blotches along the back. They like to hide in tree holes, under bark, in rotten logs, and under leaves and tree roots. During the winter, they hide under leaf litter and snow cover.




Gray treefrogs are very difficult to see and find as their bodies are so well camouflaged. Colour the gray treefrog below in grays, browns and greens. Cut it out carefully. With your cutout gray treefrog, place it throughout your back yard or house and identify the locations that your tree frog blends in.

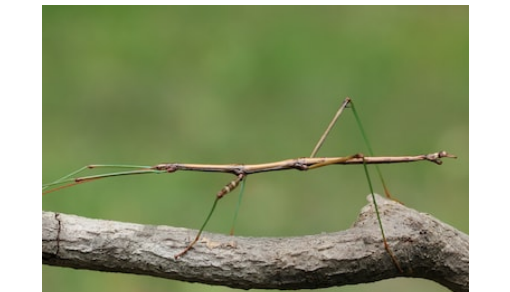


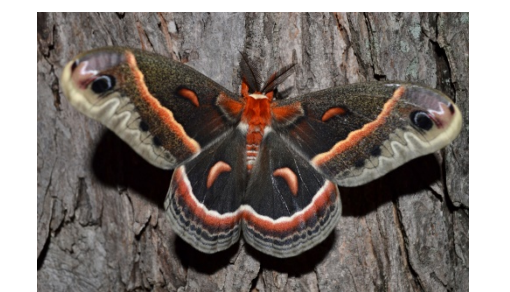
My gray treefrog camouflages here:


ACTIVITY TWO – How do I camouflage?

Have a look at each picture and describe how you think the animal camouflages?

	Describe how I camouflage? <hr/> <hr/> <hr/> <hr/>
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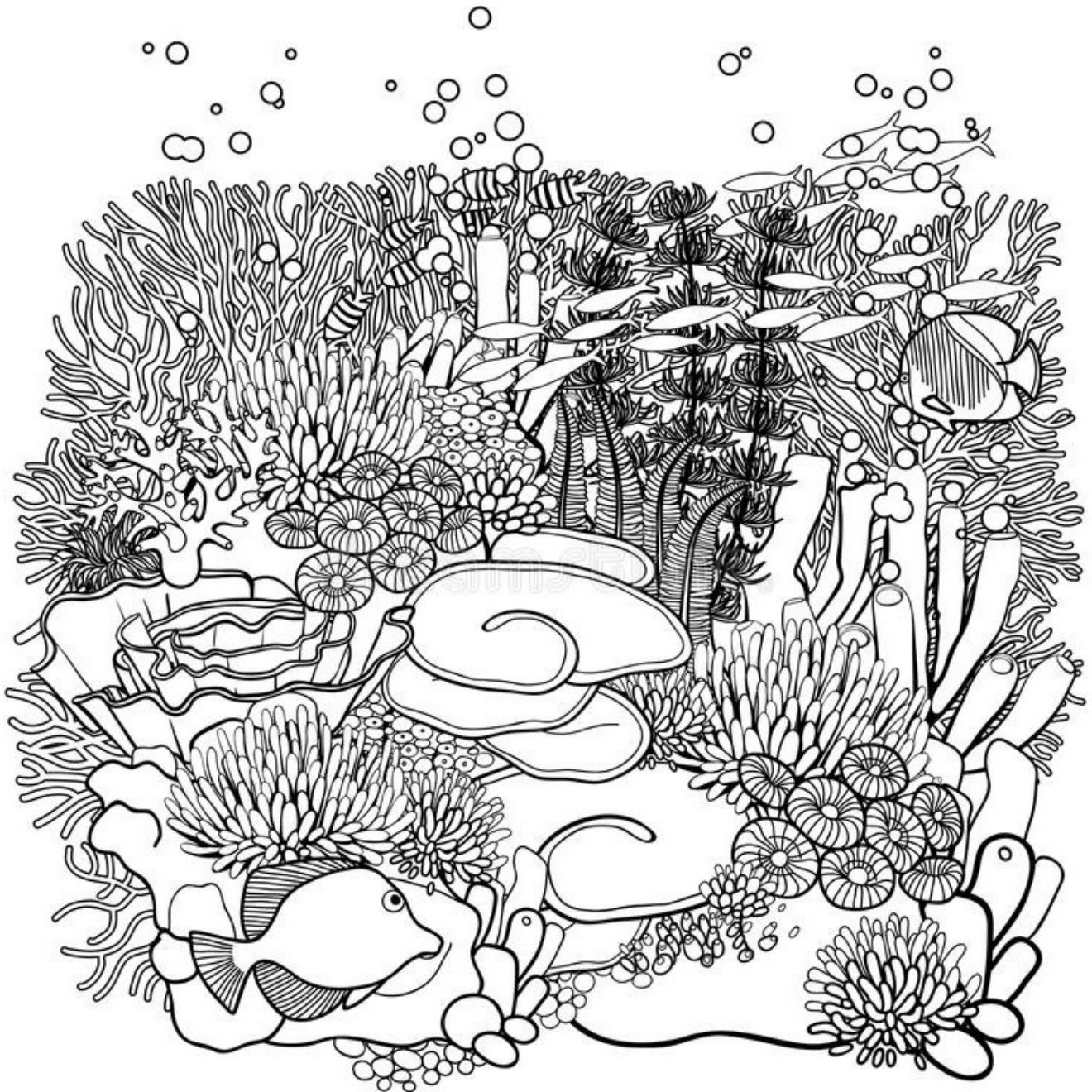
ACTIVITY THREE – Who is the imposter?

Some animals survive not by blending in with their habitats but being sneaky and mimicking other species. Match the imposter to the camouflaged animal it mimics. For each pair, research how and why the imposter imitates the other animal.

Originals	Imposters
<p>Monarch Butterfly</p> 	<p>King snake</p> 
<p>Eastern Massasauga rattlesnake</p> 	<p>Mimic octopus</p> 
<p>Coral snake</p> 	<p>Hover Fly</p> 
<p>Wasp</p> 	<p>Viceroy Butterfly</p> 
<p>Lionfish</p> 	<p>Eastern fox snake</p> 

Activity Four: Living in the coral reef

The coral reef is a very colourful habitat! Fish and marine invertebrates use a variety of camouflage techniques to help them survive in this underwater habitat. Colour the coral reef below and design your own special fish that live in this habitat. Draw in some new species too!



Answer key to Activity 3:

- Viceroy Butterfly mimics Monarch Butterfly
- Eastern fox snake mimics Eastern Massasauga rattlesnake
- Mimic octopus mimics Lionfish
- Hoverfly mimics wasp
- King snake mimics coral snake

Photo credits:

<https://ontarionature.org/programs/citizen-science/reptile-amphibian-atlas/gray-treefrog/>

<https://onnaturemagazine.com/butterfly-and-moth-guide.html>

<https://paixaoalvinegra.com/>

<https://learningaloud.com/clipart/reptileclip.html>

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hoverfly>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WGW3MSt8nJI>