

Sample Translation

ANIMALS THAT HIDE – DISGUISE IN NATURE

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THE ART OF HIDING

HOW DO ANIMALS BECOME GOOD AT  
HIDING?

CAMOUFLAGING WITH COLOUR

Least Weasel

Hare

Ptarmigan

Arctic Fox

DISGUISED AS NATURE

Leaf Insect

Orchid Mantis

Stick Insect

Leafy Seadragon

Tawny Frogmouth

Satanic Leaf-Tailed Gecko

Amazon Leaf Fish

Brazilian Crab Spider

Orange Oakleaf Butterfly

Vietnamese Mossy Frog

\*Curled-Leaf Moth

Long-Nosed Horn Frog

MIMICRY AND TRICKERY

Bird poo caterpillar

Snake-Mimic Caterpillar

Bird Poo Frog

Japanese Ant-Mimic Spider

Mural Moth

Lygodium Spider Moth

Ant-Mimicking Treehopper

Assassin Bug

Ladybird Mimic Spider

Bumblebee Robberfly

PECULIAR PATTERNS

Owl Butterfly

Four-eye Butterfly Fish

Leopard

Peach Blossom Moth

Glasswing Butterfly

Tiger

Glass Frog

Giant Hatchet Fish

Gaboon Viper

Mimic Octopus

Peacock Flounder

White-Banded Crab Spider

Pacific Tree Frog

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#### HOW DID ANIMALS BECOME GOOD AT HIDING?

Over millions of years, animals have evolved to become specialists at hiding in the places where they live.

Insects that live among green plants are often green.

Animals that live in the desert are brown like the sand.

In places with snow in wintertime, many animals' coats turn white.

Using colours or patterns to hide in nature is called camouflage.

The word camouflage is French and means to hide.

Animals that are good at hiding survive:

Either other animals that want to eat them can't see them, or they are hard to spot when they hunt for food.

The young of animals that survive have even better camouflage.

Nature chooses the traits that work best and they are passed on.



There are pictures of all the animals in the back of the book to help you find them on the pages.

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#### CAMOUFLAGE WITH COLOURS

The brown roe deer hides among the brown tree trunks in the forest.

The golden lion hides in the dry yellow grass on the savannah.

Camouflage helps many animals survive.

Most of them camouflage by being the same colour as the nature around them.

The polar bear's coat is white because it lives in a place where it's snowy all year round.

The hare changes colour by season:

In summer, its coat is greyish-brown, like the forest floor.

In winter, its coat turns white as snow.

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#### ARCTIC FOX

(*Vulpes lagopus*)

Way up in the north, a polar bear has caught a seal in the icy Arctic Ocean.

The great white bear's snout is red with blood.

The polar bear has dragged the seal up onto the ice to eat it.

Two white Arctic foxes hide behind a heap of snow .

They're waiting for the polar bear to finish eating because they want to have the leftovers.

The snow floats down on the Arctic foxes and the polar bear.

It's hard to see the white animals in all that snow.

The great bear eats and eats, taking his time.

The Arctic foxes wait patiently.

They don't sneak out until the polar bear has trudged off.

At last it's dinnertime for the hungry, patient Arctic foxes.

## DID YOU KNOW?

There are only around 200 Arctic foxes in Norway? Red foxes are much more common.

WHERE: high in the mountains and on the Arctic coast.

SIZE: Can grow to the height of an adult human's knee.

FAVOURITE FOOD: Lemmings, mice, hares, birds, berries and seal leftovers.

WHY IT HIDES: to avoid being eaten by red foxes, lynxes, wolves and eagles. The Arctic fox hides when it's hunting too.

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## ORCHID MANTIS

(*Hymenopus coronatus*)

The rainforest high up in Malaysia is muggy and humid.

The sunlight seeps in through the dense green foliage.

Pink orchids grow among the long leaves on the ground.

A pink insect climbs to the top of the flower.

It is disguised as a flower and is called an orchid mantis.

The mantis sways from side to side, like a flower in the wind.

Its legs look like the petals of the orchid it's standing on.

A little black fly flits by, ready to land on a petal.

At once, the mantis shoots out of the flower.

Its powerful forelegs grab hold of the fly in a flash.

The mantis settles back on the flower and gobbles down the fly, wings and legs and all.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Orchid mantises can be pink, white or purple.

Orchid mantises give off a scent that attracts the insect.

WHERE: Malaysia.

SIZE: Can be the size of a middle finger.

FAVOURITE FOOD: insects, especially honeybees.

WHY IT HIDES: to hunt insects. The orchid mantis also hides to avoid being eaten by birds.

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## Mossy Frog

(*Theloderma corticale*)

It's been raining in the forest in Vietnam.

Tufts of green moss grow on the wet stones

But take a closer look: one of the tufts isn't really moss.

It's a little green frog.

The little green mossy frog stretches its legs.

Suddenly a flock of hungry birds whizz down from the trees and the little frog quickly curls up again.

Now the frog has turned into a tuft of moss lying still on the stone.

The birds circle overhead but can't see any frogs.  
When the birds fly off the mossy frog stretches out  
so it looks like a frog again.

#### DID YOU KNOW?

The mossy frog's Latin name means 'warted skin'?

WHERE: Asia.

SIZE: Can grow to the size of an index finger.

FAVOURITE FOOD: Insects and spiders.

WHY IT HIDES: to avoid being eaten by snakes, lizards and birds.



How many mossy frogs can you find in the picture?

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#### MIMICRY AND TRICKERY

Some animals are masters of mimicry.

They can mimic other animals or they can mimic things  
in the natural world around them – like poo.

Caterpillars that pretend to be poo  
don't get eaten by birds on the lookout for food.

Some animals mimic animals  
that are more dangerous than they are.

Tiny moths copy scary spiders,  
and harmless larvae protect themselves  
with a fake snake head.

Predators can also imitate animals they want to eat.

If they don't look dangerous,  
they can sneak up on their prey more easily.

Nobody is safe here.

