

# Camouflage Creation

## Introduction

Peppered moths are experts at blending into the background of their natural habitat. Give your own moths some camouflage and challenge people to find them.

## Think About This

- What makes some animals difficult to spot in their natural habitat?
- What are some characteristics of animals that are good at hiding?

## Materials

- ✂ • Paper
- ✂ • Markers, colored pencils, or crayons
- Scissors
- Tape

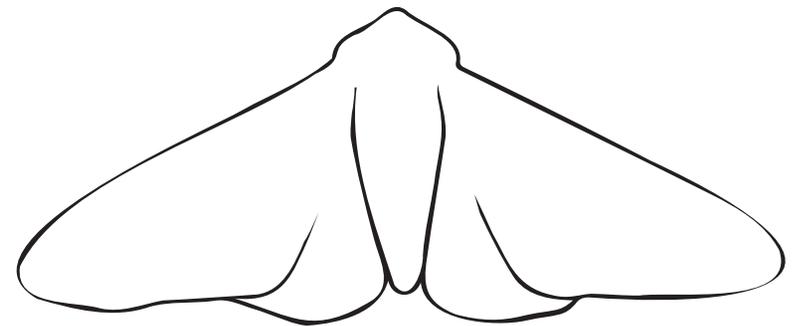
## Do Ahead of Time

- Look at the colors and patterns around your home and think about what areas might be good places for creatures to hide.
- You will be drawing colors and patterns that match your home. Make sure you use coloring tools that match the colors in your home.

## Directions

Camouflage is a color pattern that allows animals to blend into their habitat. Design your own patterns that can keep moths from being spotted.

- 1 Draw an outline of a moth on a piece of paper. You can use the sample below.
- 2 Cut out the moth.
- 3 Color the moth to match the color or pattern of a wall, blanket, pillow, carpet, curtain, or other item in your home.
- 4 Tape the moth to the spot that matches its color pattern. The moth can't be covered up and must stay in plain sight.
- 5 Repeat steps 1-4 for as many moths as you would like to hide.
- 6 Tell the people in your home that you have hidden some camouflaged moths and ask them to find the moths.
- 7 Once all the moths have been found, play another round by letting someone else make moths and hide them.



## Camouflage Creation Continued

### Questions to Ponder

- Why were some moths found quickly while others stayed hidden longer?

### What's Happening?

Peppered moths show a type of camouflage known as **background matching**. Most peppered moths are light with dark speckles, and they often stay near birch trees, which are also light with dark speckles. Because they share similar color and pattern to the trees, they are difficult for other animals, and their predators, to see.



At one point, soot from factories covered trees in some areas, making them darker. Most of the light peppered moths were eaten by birds. Some moths, however, were dark with light speckles and they were the ones to survive. For more information on the peppered moth and what happened when the factories began emitting less soot, visit <http://peppermoths.weebly.com/>.

**Countershading** is another type of camouflage. This can often be seen when an animal's color is a darker shade on top and a lighter shade on bottom. The dark top side of a shark lets it blend in with the dark water below it, and the shark is difficult to see when looking at it from the top. The light bottom side blends in with the lighter water near the surface, and the shark is difficult to see when looking at it from below. Many animals that spend time in the water, like penguins and fish, often show countershading.



One other type of camouflage is **disruptive coloration**. Spots or stripes can help break up the outline of an animal. Tigers, leopards, and zebras all have disruptive coloration. A zebra among a group of zebras is difficult for a predator to target, because stripes blend together, causing confusion.



Ready to test your skills? Click the link below to view an example of this activity and see if you can find the hidden moths!  
<https://www.thinglink.com/card/1314216635065696258>.

Send us a picture of your camouflaged moth to  
[AtHome@discoveryworld.org](mailto:AtHome@discoveryworld.org)

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