The Hidden Color Clue



Maya and Theo visited Willow Marsh Nature Reserve on a bright morning.

Near the trail, Ranger Elena stopped beside a patch of tall grass.

‘I know an animal is hiding here,’ she said.

The children looked and looked, but they could not see a thing.

Then a green tree frog blinked from a leaf.

‘It was there the whole time!’ Maya whispered.

Ranger Elena smiled. ‘Today we are going to solve the mystery of camouflage.’

Science Fables

Blending In



Ranger Elena lifted a twig and asked, ‘Do you see the insect now?’

Maya squinted until the tiny walking stick seemed to appear from nowhere.

Its long brown body looked just like the branch it rested on.

‘That is camouflage,’ Ranger Elena explained. ‘An animal’s color, shape, or pattern can help it blend into its surroundings.’

Theo nodded slowly. ‘It is hiding by looking like part of the plant.’

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Hidden by Patterns



Farther along the trail, the group paused beside a quiet clearing.

At first, Maya saw only grass, leaves, and sunlight.

Then she noticed a fawn curled near a bush. Its white spots matched the speckled light on the ground.

‘Some animals use patterns as camouflage,’ Ranger Elena said. ‘Spots, stripes, and patches can break up an animal’s shape.’

‘It is easier to miss when the pattern matches the place around it,’ Theo said.

Safe From Danger



Near the pond, Ranger Elena pointed to a green praying mantis resting on a leaf.

‘Camouflage can help an animal stay safe,’ she said. ‘If a hungry predator does not notice it, the animal has a better chance to escape.’

The mantis stayed still while a bird fluttered past.

Maya whispered, ‘Being hard to see can be a really smart shield.’

Ranger Elena smiled. ‘Exactly. Camouflage is one of nature’s clever tools.’

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A Clever Surprise



Before they headed back, Ranger Elena gave the children one last challenge.

‘Find the rabbit hiding near the grass,’ she said.

Theo searched the trail edge until two ears rose from the brown leaves.

‘Now I see it!’ he shouted. ‘Its fur matches the ground.’

Maya grinned. ‘Camouflage is like a secret costume made by nature.’

They had solved the hidden color clue.

Science Fables

Science Element



Camouflage is when an animal's color, pattern, or shape helps it blend into its surroundings.

It can help animals stay safe, hide from danger, or sneak close to food.

Some match leaves, some match bark, and some match sand, snow, or grass.

Camouflage does not make an animal invisible, but it can make it much harder to notice.

Simple idea: camouflage helps animals hide by fitting in with the world around them.

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