**Lesson Plan: Animal Camouflage**

**Standards:** 5th Grade Science 8.1.3 &.5

**Objectives: Students will learn:**

* Students will understand why animals need to adapt to their environments
* Students will see how an animal’s physical characteristics can help them survive in their environment

**Materials:**

* 3 roles of wrapping paper – one with a pattern and two different solid colors cut into roughly 11x 17 pieces
* scissors for each student
* timer
* pictures of animals hidden in their environment found at: <http://dsc.discovery.com/tv-shows/curiosity/topics/animal-camouflage-pictures.htm>
* Smart board attached to computer with Internet to show pictures of animals

**Vocabulary:** adaptation, camouflage, predators and prey

**Procedure:**

1. Ask students to name animals that camouflage themselves in their environment.
2. Show them the pictures of animals hidden in their environment at the discovery website above.
3. Ask students why they think that animals have adapted their colorings to the environment? (Helps hide them from predators and vice versa)
4. Gather students into groups of four and hand out the wrapping paper pieces.
5. Have each student take a sheet of different color paper and cut out 5 butterfly shapes out of the paper.
6. While they are cutting place a large sheet of the patterned paper on the floor.
7. Working in teams, have the students place all 20 butterflies on the large pattern piece on the floor while another team closes their eyes.
8. Set the timer to 5 seconds and explain that the students with their eyes closed have 5 seconds to pick up as many butterflies before the timer rings.
9. Compare results from the camouflaged butterflies to the solid ones.
10. Repeat the activity until everyone has had a chance.
11. On the board create a tally sheet of patterned butterflies found verses solid colored.
12. Discuss how this relates to predation

**Assessment:** Have student research one animal that has adapted to their environment where they live and write a report about the animal. Include: photo of animal in their environment and a bibliography page.