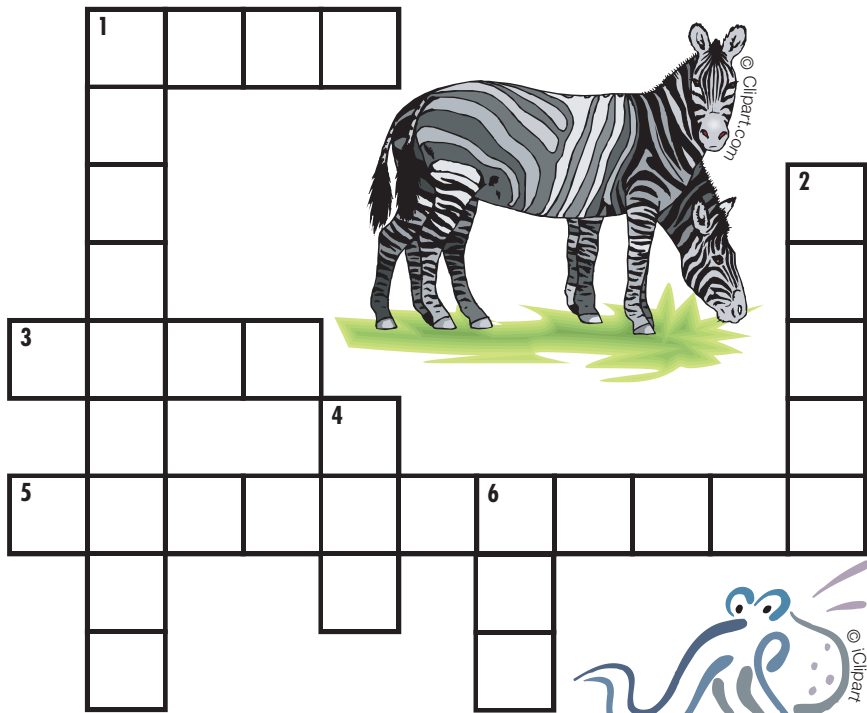


# Camo Crossword Puzzle



## ACROSS

1. Some animals use camouflage to sneak up on their \_\_\_\_\_
3. To a lion, a herd of zebras looks like a striped \_\_\_\_\_
5. Chameleons can change color to \_\_\_\_\_

## DOWN

1. Some animals use camouflage to hide from their \_\_\_\_\_
2. In the winter, a snowshoe hare is \_\_\_\_\_
4. A walking stick is the name of a \_\_\_\_\_
6. When an octopus feels threatened, he squirts \_\_\_\_\_

ANSWERS: Across: 1. prey; 3. mass; 5. communicate; Down: 1. predators; 2. white; 4. bug; 6. ink



presented by **Science a-z** a division of Learning A-Z

## Colorful Chameleons— Camouflage, Communication, or Both?

By Shaun Stanberry

JUNE 2008: People have long thought that lizards changed their color to match their environment. But scientists are now learning that that may be a myth.



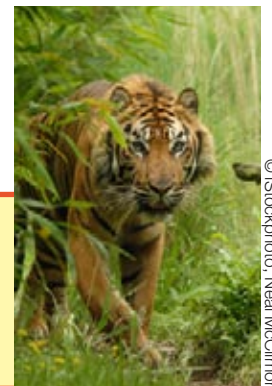
A recent study discovered that chameleons use body color not just as camouflage, but also as a way to send messages to other chameleons. For example, a male might flash bright colors

to attract a mate or show strength, while a female might change color to show she is ready to mate.

*See Colorful Chameleons on page 2*

### Why do animals use camouflage?

Animals use camouflage to hide from their predators in the wild. Predators use camouflage to sneak up on their prey.

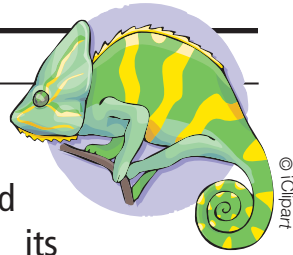


## Colorful Chameleons

Continued from page 1

This new information is changing the way scientists think about chameleons and camouflage. Many scientists now agree that a chameleon's survival might depend more on its ability to communicate with other chameleons than

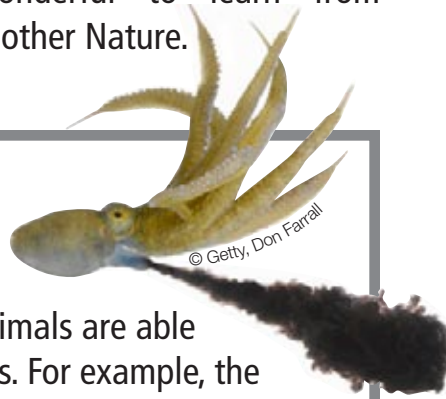
its ability to blend in with its environment. Which goes to show, there's always something new and wonderful to learn from Mother Nature.



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## WHAT STINKS?

Camouflage isn't always something you can see. Some animals are able to hide their scent from predators. For example, the queen parrotfish surrounds itself in a jelly-like cocoon, which masks its smell from nighttime hunters who rely on scent rather than sight. Squid, octopus, and cuttlefish can squirt a cloud of ink when they feel threatened. The ink makes it hard for their predators to see and to smell them.



© Getty, Don Farrall

## Writing Prompt:

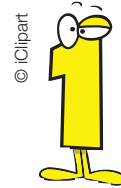
“What are they saying to each other?”



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## Counting Kinds of Camouflage

Animals have adapted many unusual and interesting ways of protecting themselves from predators or hiding themselves from prey.



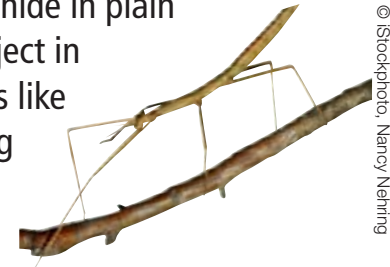
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**Concealing** is when animals are the same colors as their environment. For example, many Arctic animals turn white in the winter to blend in with the snow.



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**Disguise** is when animals hide in plain sight by looking like an object in nature. An insect that looks like a branch, such as a walking stick, is using its twig-like shape to hide from predators.



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**Mimicry** is when animals make themselves look more like the habitat in which they live. For example, the leafy sea dragon looks more like a piece of sea kelp than it does its sea-horse cousin. It moves slowly in the water so it appears to float rather than swim.



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**Disruptive coloration** confuses the eye. It breaks up the solid outline of an animal's body so that it is harder to see against its surroundings. These animals have stripes, spots, or other patterns.



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