

## **"Where's SWAMPO"**

Mr. Mark Musselman

Audubon at the Francis Beidler Forest

Overview: Students will exercise their observational skills, be expected to keep a tally and introduce the concept of camouflage (both special resemblance and general resemblance).

### Connection to the Curriculum:

- K-1.1 Identify observed objects or events by using the senses.
- 2-2.2 Classify animals (including mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, fish, and insects) according to their physical characteristics.
- 3-1.1 Classify objects by two of their properties (attributes).
- 3-2.2 Explain how physical and behavioral adaptations allow organisms to survive (including hibernation, defense, locomotion, movement, food obtainment, and camouflage for animals and seed dispersal, color, and response to light for plants).
- 4-2.1 Classify organisms into major groups (including plants or animals, flowering or nonflowering plants, and vertebrates [fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, and mammals] or invertebrates) according to their physical characteristics.
- 5-2.4 Identify the roles of organisms as they interact and depend on one another through food chains and food webs in an ecosystem, considering producers and consumers (herbivores, carnivores, and omnivores), decomposers (microorganisms, termites, worms, and fungi), predators and prey, and parasites and hosts.
- 6-3.2 Summarize the basic functions of the structures of animals that allow them to defend themselves, to move, and to obtain resources.
- 7-4.2 Illustrate energy flow in food chains, food webs, and energy pyramids.
- 8-2.1 Explain how biological adaptations of populations enhance their survival in a particular environment.

Suggested Grade Range: 2-8

Time: 15 minutes

### Materials Needed:

1. Clipboard and pencil (per student).
2. Tally sheet (per student)

### Objectives:

1. SWBAT exercise their observational skills, be expected to keep a tally of artificial life and describe the concept of camouflage (both special resemblance and general resemblance).

### Procedures:

1. Provide each student with a clipboard, pencil and tally sheet.
2. Before proceeding to the "Low Boardwalk Trail", while introducing the students to Beidler Forest, mention that over 300 species of animals live here. Ask why we do not see all 300 species. (Noise, hiding, nocturnal, temperature, habitat, camouflage). Ask students to name an animal that camouflages itself well.
3. Pair students with one clipboard. They will choose who will be the "recorder".

4. Proceed to the designated “Where’s Swampo?” observation area along the Low Boardwalk Trail. Students can line up between the ends of the ropes.
5. Using their tally sheets attached to clipboards, have students count off each example of “artificial” wildlife that they can find. Have them sort their finds by Animal Class (Reptiles, Amphibians, Birds, Insects, Crustaceans, Mammals and SWAMPO) or by predator/prey relationships.
6. After 5 minutes, have the forward half of the group take two steps back. The other half of the group then moves forward to replace them. The first group then moves to the vacated area thereby allowing each group to observe the designated area from both ends.

Suggested Evaluation:

1. Explain the difference between general and specific resemblance.
2. Describe how camouflage is an advantage to both prey and predator. Give an example for each one.

Extending the Lesson:

- 1.

Resources:

Camouflage is a technique that many species of wildlife use to hide. It usually involves hiding in plain sight and can involve a combination of special colors, body shape or unique behavior.

**General resemblance** is camouflage that uses color alone to help the animal blend into its background. In the swamp, great examples of general resemblance are Gray Tree Frogs, Carolina Anoles, female Cardinals, Gray Squirrels, and fawns. **Special resemblance** is camouflage that relies on a combination of all three tricks: color, shape, and behavior. Great examples of species that use special resemblance in the swamp are Praying Mantis, the Walking Stick, some spiders and Rough Green Snakes.