

2.43 Nature and Animals: Camouflage

If we are hungry, we open the fridge.

Or go to the supermarket.

Animals find their own food.

They have to be careful not to get eaten themselves.

That isn't easy.

Luckily, many have camouflage.

Some animals, like this fish, blend in smoothly with their surroundings.

The cheetah's spotted pelt hides it in the withered grass.

Many animals change colour to blend in with their surroundings.

The chameleon is the champion at this.

It can turn black, brown, yellow, blue, red or green.

Some animals go a step further.

They disguise themselves as plants.

Leaf butterflies, leaf insects and stick insects look just like plants.

Dangerous animals are seldom camouflaged.

They are usually brightly coloured,
with stripes or spots.

Some animals take advantage of this.
They pretend to be dangerous.

The hoverfly, for instance.

Its yellow and black stripes make it
look like a wasp.

Some animals scare off their
enemies.

If the peacock butterfly is in danger,
it opens its wings.

Its attacker then sees four big eyes...

...and is scared away.

Some animals 'dress up' to disguise
themselves.

These tube-worms cover themselves
with sand and pieces of sponge.

In Guinea beetles hide themselves
by growing plants on their backs.

That's quite a fancy dress costume.