



Tricks for survival

Lesson plan: how reef fish survive by hiding, teaming up and warning, with a camouflage hunt that collects class data



Ages	8 to 11 (grades 3 to 6)
Time	45 to 60 minutes
Group	Up to 35 students, in pairs
Where	Any classroom. No internet needed.
You need	The slides, one set of camouflage hunt pages per pair (colour printing), pencils, a timer

What students learn

- Fish use camouflage to hide from predators and to catch prey.
- Some fish survive by teaming up: schools, cleaning stations and partnerships.
- Some animals warn predators with colour or by puffing up.
- How to collect and compare data from a simple experiment.

Before the lesson

1. Print the **camouflage hunt pages** in colour, one set per pair.
2. Draw a class chart on the board with two columns: camouflaged and bright.

The lesson

- 1 **Hide, team up, warn 20 minutes, slides 1 to 4.** Go through the photos and ask which trick each animal uses.
- 2 **Camouflage hunt 15 minutes, slides 5 and 6.** Run both pages, 30 seconds each, and add results to the class chart.
- 3 **Discuss 10 minutes, slide 7.** Compare camouflaged and bright finds.

Answers and what to listen for

What to expect: students usually find most of the bright fish and fewer of the camouflaged ones, especially on the sandy page. That is the evidence that camouflage works. Each page has 8 camouflaged and 8 bright fish.

Making it easier or harder

- **Younger groups:** use the sandy page only, and give 45 seconds.
- **Older groups:** work out the class average for each colour and draw a bar chart.

Curriculum links

- **Science:** adaptation, living things and their environment, fair tests.
- **Maths:** tallying and comparing.
- **Ocean Literacy Principle 5:** the ocean supports a great diversity of life and ecosystems.

The teacher reading has the science behind every slide, with links to the sources.

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