Science Story Adventures

Chameleons

Learning outcomes

» Students know plants and animals have structures that serve different functions in growth, survival and reproduction. (Grade 3 - Life sciences)

» Students know animals eat plants or other animals for food and may also use plants or even other animals for shelter and nesting. (Grade 1 - Life sciences)

» Students know different plants and animals inhabit different kinds of environments and have external features that help them thrive in different kinds of places. (Grade 1 – Life sciences)

From: California's Science Content Standards

Books we read

Chameleon, Chameleon by Joy Cowley

Konte Chameleon, Fine, Fine, Fine! by Cristina Kessler

Activities we did

» We used party blowers with some Velcro on the end to simulate chameleons' tongues. We used these to try and catch flies made out of pipecleaners and the opposing side of Velcro.

Adapted from http://www.scilitlinks.org/chameleon.htm

Today's craft: Paper Plate Chameleon

You will need:

» 2 green paper plates
» Template for body parts (included)
» 2 mini foil cups for eyes
» 2 black dots for eyes
» Long balloon for tongue
» Scissors
» Glue
» Stapler

Directions:

1. Fold one of the plates in half – this makes the chameleon's body. Lay 2" of the tongue along the inside fold with the reminder hanging out.

2. Using the template, cut the head, tail and 4 legs from the second plate.

3. Tuck the tail into the folded body – opposite end to the tongue. Staple in place.

4. Staple 2 legs (green side facing front) about 1 inches (2.5 cm) from the tail and the other 2 legs about 1.5 inches (3.8 cm) in front of that.

5. Fold the head in half and position it so the fold is at the front of the body and the point is slightly above the body. Staple in place.

6. To make the eyes - glue the foil cups on either side of the head and then glue the black dots on the base of the foil cups.

Want to find out more?

Here is a selection of further resources to explore in the Naturalist Center, in the public library or at home. Please ask if you can't find what you're looking for.

Books

Chameleons by Erika Deiters.
Part of the Animals of the Rainforest series.

Chameleons by Sophie Lockwood. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL666 .L23 L62 2006
Using camouflage, chameleons escape predators and stealthily track down prey. This book gives an overview of these amazing reptiles, including various species and the habitats they occupy.

Chameleons: Dragons in the Trees by James Martin. Nat. Ctr. Juv. QL666 .L23 M36 1991
Text and photographs introducing the behavior, African habitat, physical adaptations, endangered status, and other aspects of several species of chameleon.

How Do Chameleons Change Color? by Melissa Stewart.
Provides comprehensive information on chameleons and explains how and why they change color

DVDs

Life in Cold Blood. Nat. Ctr. Media QL641 .L54 2008
In episode 3 of this series on reptiles and amphibians, David Attenborough looks at chameleons as well as other lizards.

Websites

A Truly Bizarre Lizard

Looks at the chameleons of Madagascar: Around half the world's species of chameleons live on the island of Madagascar and 59 species only live in Madagascar.

http://www.pbs.org/edens/madagascar/creature3.htm\

Chameleons, Communication and Camouflage

Why do chameleons change color? This webpage explodes some myths.

http://www.ccmr.cornell.edu/education/ask/index.html?quid=484

Chameleon Family

Animal Diversity Web's page on chameleons looks at the whole family. Click on the 'Pictures' tab to see illustrations of different species.

http://141.213.176.11/site/accounts/information/Chamaeleonidae.html

Chameleon Pictures

Cool photographs of different members of the Chameleon family.

http://animals.nationalgeographic.com/animals/photos/chameleons/#/panther-chameleon_8429_600x450.jpg

Reptiles: Chameleons

Get fun and interesting chameleon facts in an easy-to-read style from the San Diego Zoo's Animal Bytes.

http://www.sandiegozoo.org/animalbytes/t-chameleon.html

CHAMELEON TEMPLATE

HEAD
CUT SEGMENT
OF PLATE

LEGS
CUT 4
FROM
PLATE RIM

CUT ALL
FROM ONE
PLATE

TAIL
CUT FROM INSIDE
PLATE