



## HOW THE GUINEA FOWL GOT HER SPOTS

by  
Barbara Knutson

This story is based on a Swahili African folk tale, and it is a great story of friendship. Camouflage in the animal world works in two ways. It protects a prey from its predator as it did Nganga the Guinea Fowl (once she got her spots) from Lion. It makes a predator invisible to its prey as it did Lion when she hid from Cow in the long yellow grass by the river.

If you go out in your backyard and look carefully, I am sure that you can find animals hiding - a walking stick, a moth, or a grasshopper. Is it the shape or the color (or both) that allows them to hide?

**MATERIALS:** wallpaper samples, glue, scissors

**ACTIVITY:** Divide the students into groups and have each-group choose a background piece of wallpaper. From different wallpaper scraps, have the students design and cut out secret shapes (as least as big as their thumbnail) and glue them on their background sheet. Now let them share their sheet with other groups; they can tell these groups how many shapes to look for.

**SOURCE:** Hands-On Nature, Vermont Institute of Natural Science. ISBN#0-9617627-0-5.

**TEACHER NOTES:** See the camouflage activity linked to The Trek by Ann Jonas.

**STANDARDS:**

**BSL:** 1.2, 1.3, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 6.3, 9.3, 9.6, 11.2, 12.1, 12.3

**NCTM:** 4d, 13a

**SCS:** A1, C1, C3, E1, F4, H2, H5

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