



## A COLOR OF HIS OWN by Leo Lionni

Every animal has its own color and "wears it" with pride. Is this a rule? There appears to be an exception, the chameleon; it seems to change color wherever it goes! Actually, chameleon is the common name for the *anole*, the best known lizard in our Western Hemisphere. Under the influence of light, temperature, or even its own emotions, the *anole* may be bright green, brown, or gray. This form of camouflage provides great protection for this small reptile.

The Chameleon in Leo Lionni's story, however, does not see this color changing ability as an attribute; he wants a color of his own! He tries remaining on a leaf, but finds that the leaf itself experiences a series of color changes as the fall season ends and the winter one begins. Finally, when spring comes, he finds a wonderful solution as he gains a true friend.

The Touch-It™ Paper changes color with the temperature in your hands. Besides being amazed and excited about what happens when they pick up the paper, students could make a chameleon out of different colored papers and then do some problem solving. What color does the chameleon have to become when the paper changes color?

**MATERIALS:** a piece of Touch-It™ Heat Sensitive Paper, colored paper, scissors, chameleon pattern

**ACTIVITY:** Cut out chameleon pattern; trace the pattern on colored paper of choice. This activity can be open-ended and more challenging for older students. Bits of Touch-It™ Paper could be pasted on in a mosaic pattern so that the chameleon would be hidden either when the paper is heated or cooled.

**SOURCE:** Idea for book connection: Penelope R. Brown

**STANDARDS:**

**BSL:** 1.3, 1.5, 1.6, 1.8, 4.10, 6.1, 6.2, 11.4, 12.3

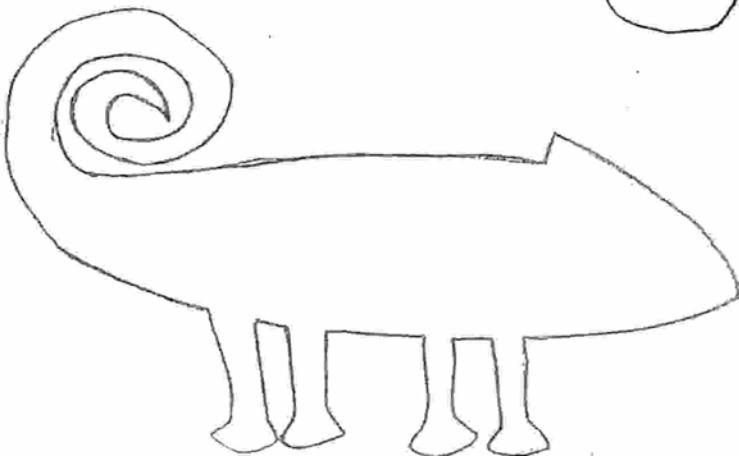
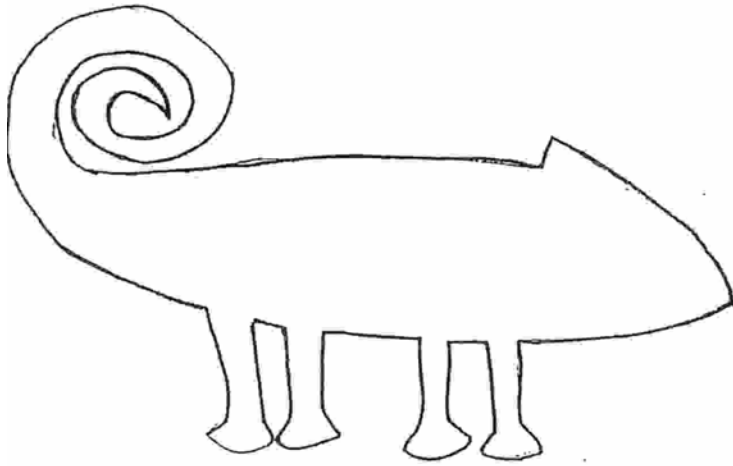
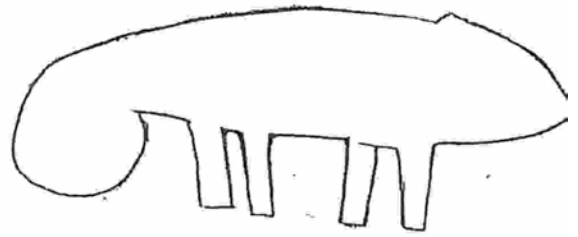
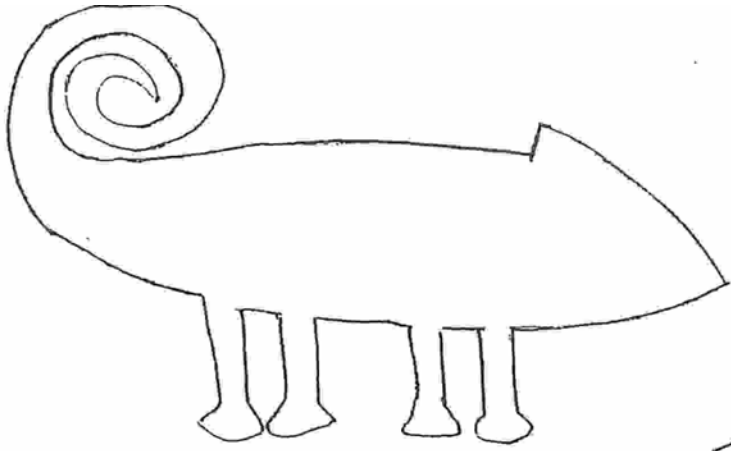
**NCTM:** 3c, 4d

**SCS:** A1, B1, B3, D1

Lionni, Leo. *A Color of His Own*. Alfred A. Knopf, 1975. ISBN#0-679-84197-0.

**Source of Touch-It™ Paper:** Educational Innovations, Inc.: 1-888-912-7474.

Online: [www.teachersource.com](http://www.teachersource.com)



Additional notes:

- Trace the chameleon pattern on any of the five colored papers, and cut it out. Provide each pair/group of students with strips (1 /8 of a sheet of colored paper is more than enough) of the five colors. Have them tape them together so that they have "rainbow paper". Hold the chameleon and the rainbow paper in front of a small hair dryer. As the heat from the hair dryer changes each of the colored papers, students can see where the chameleon would be camouflaged and where it would not be hidden. •You can use a heat lamp, too, for the above experiment. The hair dryer may be safer and it is more easily accessible.
- Cover part of one of the papers with a square of black paper and a square of aluminum foil. Students can see how easily the paper changes color under the black paper, and see that there is no change where the heat is reflected by the aluminum foil. This works more successfully with the heat lamp. The hair dryer sends heat so quickly that the whole page changes almost instantly. It is quite difficult to do it quickly even on the low setting.
- Extensions: using the color changing cars (Hot Wheels™) and the LION KING spoons that were in cereal boxes when the LION KING first came out. Some of you are collectors!