



THE TREK by Ann Jonas

An animal's body color is as important to its survival in its environment as armor or weapons are to us. Most aquatic animals and some terrestrial ones also have a lighter color on the underside of their body than on top. These colors also vary depending on the water depth in which these animals live. The most remarkable example of color adaptation is protective mimicry as exemplified by the viceroy and the monarch butterflies. The viceroy is somewhat smaller and has a transverse black band on its hind wings. The latest research suggests that it may also taste as bad as the monarch to certain birds!

Help this girl find all the animals so that she can make a safe trek to school. Help your students see a discrepant event as an example of camouflage.

MATERIALS: classified pages from the newspaper, red, black, white, & yellow construction paper, simple butterfly/moth pattern, scissors, glue, clear contact or laminating paper

ACTIVITY:

1. Trace and cut out 24 butterflies/moths, 6 each of red, black, white, & yellow. Trace and cut out 12 newspaper butterflies/moths placing the pattern at different angles on the newspaper.
2. Position the colored butterflies/moths on a double classified page, distributing the colors randomly. Glue them on.
3. Now position the newspaper patterns in between the colored patterns, being sure to line up the text of the pattern with the text on the newspaper sheet. Glue them on. Laminate if possible or cover with clear contact.
4. Hold up sheet of newspaper (**make sure there is no light behind the sheet**) and ask your students how many butterflies they can count. **WAIT A MINUTE** until most of them count/see 24. For younger children ask how many red? black? white? yellow? Then take the sheet of newspaper and hold it up in front of a window. Ask the students to **COUNT AGAIN!**

SOURCE: Carol Gossett, AIMS Assistant Program Director.

TEACHER NOTES: I use a butterfly pattern that is approximately 2 inches/5 cm by 3 inches/7.5 cm. My students say it looks more like a bow than a butterfly, but it works well with the size of the sheet of newsprint.

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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