

## Lizard Hunt

### Objectives:

- distinguish reptiles and mammals
- understand characteristics of reptiles and other animals
- identify camouflage and behaviors that allow animals to survive in their environment

### Missouri Curriculum Frameworks:

#### Grades K-4:

#### Strand 1 (A. Processes of Scientific Inquiry)

2a. carefully distinguish actual observations from ideas and speculations about what is observed; use information-processing skills to develop and clarify ideas and perspectives (1.5, 1.7)

#### Strand 1 Scientific Inquiry (B. Investigations)

1a. Create and refine ideas and questions about the world by asking for information, making careful observations and trying things out (1.1, 1.2, 1.6, 1.7)

1b. plan and conduct a simple investigation that includes formulating a question, gathering data and constructing a reasonable explanation.

#### Strand VII Living Systems (C. Diversity)

1a. group organisms according to similar specific structures (1.6)

1b. compare living things using one or more structure attributes (1.6)

2a. identify and consider a variety of viewpoints when interpreting whether characteristics are inherited or acquired (2.3, 3.4)

#### Strand VIII Ecology (A. Interactions)

1a. give examples of how living things affect their environment and other living things (1.3, 1.6, 4.1)

2a. identify the common basic needs of organisms and the ways in which they depend on each other and their environment (1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.6, 1.10, 2.4, 3.5, 4.6)

4b. identify behavior and physical adaptations that help organisms adapt to changing conditions (1.2, 1.5, 2.4)

4c. identify the physical attributes and behavior of living organisms that enable them to survive (1.2, 1.5, 2.4)

5a. identify and discuss the nature of relationships between two or more living organisms (1.2, 2.3, 2.7, 3.5)

#### Strand VIII Ecology (B. Changes)

2a. identify positive adaptations of organisms to a given environment that increase chances for survival (1.3, 1.4, 2.3, 3.5, 4.1)

### Materials:

Pictures of reptiles and mammals (4 reptiles and 4 mammals)

Paper cut outs of chameleons and snakes

Crayons and markers

Tape

**Discussion:** What are the distinguishing characteristics of reptiles and mammals, such as scales v. hair or cold blooded v. warm blooded? Look at the pictures of the reptiles and mammals and separate out the reptiles from the mammals using the characteristics above. Make observations for further differences and similarities between the various animals.

What is camouflage and how do animals use it to survive in their environment? Discuss inherited and acquired traits such as camouflage. Also review predator/prey relationships.

### **“Lizard Hunt” Activity**

1. Divide into two groups. One group will be the chameleons and the other will be the snakes.
2. The snake group should leave the room so they can't see the chameleons.
3. Pass out the chameleon cut outs to the chameleon group. Find a place in the room where you want to “hide” your chameleon from the snakes. Predict where the best spot is, how many chameleons will be eaten, what color will blend in the best, etc. Color the chameleons to match the area you have chosen.
4. Pass out one snake to each member of the snake group. Color the snakes, and discuss the snakes' role as a predator. Predict where and what the chameleons will look like, and then go back into the room and hunt for the chameleons.
5. As a group, calculate how many chameleons were eaten and how many survived. Discuss why some survived and others didn't. Relate it back to inherited/acquired traits and how it increases survival rates.