

Now You See It

Before your Visit - Activity 1

Habitat Hide-Aways

Background Information

Animals "hide" for various reasons. They hide to avoid an approaching predator, a passing human, or to sneak up on prey. Because of the various physical and behavioral characteristics of animals, there are several different ways they can do this. One way is to quickly flee -- to run away from the danger. Jackrabbits, with their long legs, use this tactic to quickly escape danger. "Freezing" is another form of hiding; the animal remains completely still until the danger passes. Cottontail rabbits frequently use this method to avoid detection. Predators also use this strategy of freezing and can remain unseen by potential prey until it is too late. Scurrying underneath a rock or a bush or burrowing into the sand are other forms of hiding. Lizards and other insects can escape danger in this manner. Camouflage, or blending in with the background, is yet another method of hiding; the animal's skin or fur matches the colors and/or patterns of its immediate environment and therefore it blends into its surroundings. The Canyon Treefrog is a good example - its skin blends perfectly with the rocks upon which it lays.

Each one of these hide-away methods is possible because of special physical or behavioral characteristics, called adaptations. Adaptations will be further discussed in the activity following this one.

Activity Procedure

1. Conduct a review of some of the animals you may see during your Sabino Canyon Visit (many of these animals were introduced in the previous "Scenes of Sabino" activity). Do students think they will see all these animals? Why or why not? Explain that, when humans are present, animals are usually afraid or wary and they hide. This activity will teach students how and why animals hide. Some possible questions to generate discussion and get the students thinking are:

- * *If you were an animal, what would be some reasons why you would hide? Who or what are you hiding from or for?*
- * *Why do some animals hide away?*

Objectives

Students will

- identify why and when animals "hide".
- list various ways in which animals hide to escape predation or to surprise prey.

Lesson Information

Materials

a copy of "Hide-and -Peek" top and bottom pages (masters provided), crayons or markers, scissors, stapler or glue.

Time

One class period

Subject Area

Science, Art

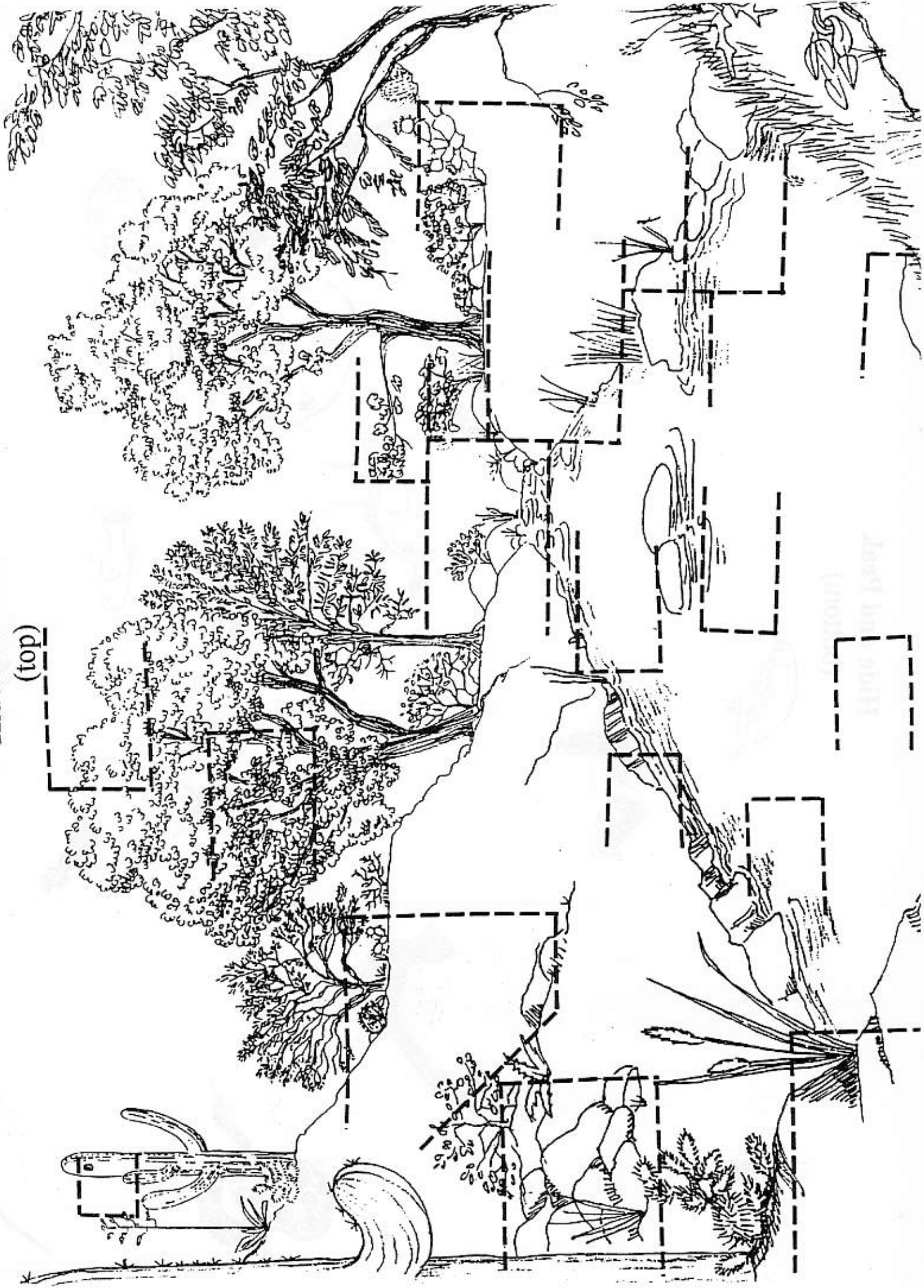
Key Words

adaptation, camouflage

- * *What are different ways you could hide if you were an animal?*
 - * *Imagine that you are an animal with very fast running legs. How would you hide from danger?*
 - * *Imagine that you are an animal with a small, flexible body, how would you hide?*
 - * *Imagine that you are an animal that can hold perfectly still. How would you hide?*
 - * *Imagine that you are an animal with brown/gray fur? How would you hide? If you had skin that matched a rock in the desert, how would you hide?*
2. Hand out copies of the "Hide-and-Peek" top and bottom sheet. Explain to the students that on the top page there is a picture of a typical scene in Sabino Canyon. Within the picture are different places in the habitat for animals to hide. Also included in the top picture are animals that hide by camouflage or by being very still. The bottom picture page reveals the animals that live underneath or behind the habitat in the top picture. Give the students time to color both pages. This activity can be done in pairs, one student coloring the top page and another student coloring the bottom page.
 3. When the students have completed their coloring, show them the outlined boxes on the top page. Three sides of each box are outlined with a dotted line. The dotted lines should be cut out with a scissors. The cut-away can then be peeled back to create a flapping door which reveals the animals underneath.
 4. Connect the bottom page to the top page with tape, a stapler or glue. Review as a class why animals hide and the different ways they do, peeking under the flaps to see the hiding animals.

Hide and Peek

(top)



Hide and Peak
(bottom)

