

Animal Mimicry Activity

Start by showing your students some different examples of mimicry (below).



Some animals, like the peacock moth and the four-eye butterflyfish (pictured), use eyespot mimicry to look like a larger, more intimidating animal.

Can you spot the “false eyes” on the moth and fish? What bigger/scarier animal do you think they look like?



Some animals evolve colors or patterns that make them look like a more harmful species. Do you think this animal is a bee or a “wannabe”?

(Answer: It’s a harmless hoverfly!)

If a snake rattles its tail, it’s a dangerous rattlesnake, right?! **WRONG!** The bullsnake is non-venomous, but it can fool other animals and people when it vibrates its tail to mimic a rattle.



Design Animal Disguises

Using collage or coloring supplies, decorate each animal below with colors, patterns, or designs that would help it to hide from, confuse, or scare away predators. Try to use what you've learned about mimicry!

