

inspire
a **KID**
ADVENTURE BOOK





Snowshoe hare

HIDDEN IN PLAIN SIGHT

Have you ever been outside and looked at the same spot for a while before you noticed an animal was sitting there the whole time? That's not an accident. Some animals don't want to be noticed.

Animals sometimes have colors or patterns on their bodies to help them blend in with their surroundings. That's called camouflage, and it helps them survive.

THERE ARE FOUR MAIN TYPES OF CAMOUFLAGE WILDLIFE USE



Brown creeper

CONCEALING OR CRYPTIC COLORATION

When animals match their background to blend in. **Example:** Brown creepers have coloring like tree bark.



Elk calf

DISRUPTIVE COLORATION

When animals have stripes, spots or other color patterns to make their body outline not stand out as much against their background. **Example:** Young elk calves have spots to disrupt their coloring.



Sculpin

DISGUISE

When animals blend into their habitat by looking like another object. **Example:** Sculpins blend into their habitat often looking like plants, rocks or mud.



Phidippus apacheanus jumping spider

MIMICRY

This is when harmless animals look similar to poisonous or dangerous animals in order to fool their predators into leaving them alone. **Example:** The Phidippus apacheanus jumping spider mimics the more dangerous velvet ant.

Camouflage in use

Now that you know what camouflage is, are you wondering how animals actually use it? Animals of all kinds — predators and prey — use camouflage. A predator is an animal that eats other animals, while prey is an animal that gets

eaten by a predator. If an animal does not want to be seen by a predator, camouflage helps it hide. On the flip side, camouflage helps predators not be seen while they sneak up on their prey. Here are some animals that use camouflage:



BOBCATS use disruptive coloration patterns on their spotted coat to camouflage as they sneak up on snowshoe hares. These hares shed their brown, summer coats and grow in a white coat in the winter. In both seasons, they blend in with the background, whether it is brown grass and dirt in the summer or white snow in the winter. This is called seasonal color changing.



AMERICAN BITTERNS disguise themselves to look like reeds by pointing their beak toward the sky and swaying with the grass. Bitterns often hunt cryptically-colored fish that are dark on top and light underneath. This helps the fish blend in with the bottom of a stream when something looks down at them and into the light sky when an aquatic predator looks up at them from below.



BULLSNAKES use mimicry as they look similar to a prairie rattlesnake and can even vibrate their tails to deter predators, including humans. This can fool predators into thinking that they might be venomous like a rattlesnake when they are, in fact, not.



MOUNTAIN LIONS blend into their habitat using cryptic coloration while hunting deer fawns, who use their spots as disruptive coloration to help them blend in with grass and sunlight coming through the trees above.

Tips to be safe outdoors

It's exciting to be outdoors and explore. Wyoming has many great places to experience. For those who live in the Cowboy State, some of those spots could be close to where you live. Anytime you head outside it's important to stay safe. Here are some tips:



WATCH FOR WEATHER

Always check the weather forecast before going out, no matter the season or what the weather is like before heading out. Wyoming weather can change fast so be prepared for anything and everything.



KNOW HOW TO DRESS

This starts with a good pair of socks, and carry an extra pair in case your feet get wet. Waterproof or water-resistant clothes also are recommended so you stay dry and warm. If you dress in layers you can take off those water-resistant layers and pack them away in case you need them later.



FIRST-AID KIT

Always good to pack, but especially if you plan to be outside for a long period of time. Some items in a first-aid kit may include bandages, antibiotic ointment, emergency blanket, emergency phone numbers, latex or nitrile gloves and gauze pads.



OTHER ESSENTIALS

Water, a snack, waterproof matches and a flashlight are all important items to carry. You might not use all of them on your outing, but having them goes a long way for a fun and safe trip.



TELL SOMEONE

Before you leave for an outdoor adventure, ask permission from a parent or another adult before going. Also tell someone where you plan to go and when you plan to be back. Plan to go with at least one other person for safety.



IN PLAIN SIGHT

If out in Wyoming's prairie areas, watch for tunnels that ground squirrels and prairie dogs dig. They may cause you to twist an ankle. Prickly pear cactus is common in this habitat so watch your step and grip so you don't get poked. The same can be said for rocky landscapes in the mountains. Be aware of loose and unstable rocks.



STAY SAFE AROUND WATER

If around streams, rivers or lakes stay at least 10 feet from the edge of the water so you don't accidentally fall in. Getting soaked when you aren't planning to take a swim can be unpleasant and also dangerous if it's cold outside. A combination of being wet and cold weather can result in hypothermia, which is when your body loses heat faster than it can produce it.



How to make a survival kit in a mint tin

Survival kits don't need to come in big, heavy packs. A mint tin filled with some small gear can be all you need for an adventure outside. The size is easy to carry — even in a pocket! Each item can help you in an emergency. Ask an adult to help you gather these supplies and learn how to use them.

- 1 Small flashlight:** This can help you see when it gets dark.
- 2 Whistle:** A whistle can help you make noise to signal for help. Three loud, short blasts from the whistle is a common signal for "help."
- 3 Water purification tablets:** These tablets are easy to use and can help you get safe drinking water. Be sure to keep instructions in the kit to make sure you use the right amount of water per tablet.
- 4 Compass:** This can help you know which direction you are traveling in if you get lost.
- 5 Small multitool:** This could be used in many ways during a survival situation. You can use the knife to make fire tinder, scissors to cut a bandage or tweezers to remove a splinter.
- 6 Fishing hooks, line and sinkers:** These can be used to catch fish for food.
- 7 Fire starting material:** In a survival situation, fire can keep you warm, cook food and boil water. Having something that can easily be lit will help you get a fire started.
- 8 At least two ways to start a fire:** Having things like waterproof matches, steel and striker, mini lighter or a ferro rod can help you spark a fire.
- 9 Mini survival manual:** Having a small manual or card with first-aid and survival tips can help you know what to do if you get lost or injured.
- 10 Basic first-aid supplies:** Keep things like bandages, antibiotic ointment and tape to treat injuries and prevent an infection. Try to put the first-aid gear on the top to make sure you can access it quickly if needed.



Place each item inside the tin. Bring it with you on your next outdoor journey!

Know your TREES

Trees come in many shapes, sizes and forms. In order to solve the mystery of what types of trees are most common near your home or school, you will have to make some scientific observations like a good detective. Here are eight of the most common trees found in Wyoming:



Lodgepole pine: Has two needles per bundle that are 1 to 3 inches long. It has small, prickly cones. Its scaly bark is rough and gray-orange colored.



Limber pine: Five needles per bundle that are 1 to 3 inches long. It has flexible twigs and smooth, light-gray bark. There are no prickles on the cones.



Ponderosa pine: Two or three needles per bundle that are 3 to 5 inches long. The bark is orange with black cracks between plates.



Douglas fir: Flat needles and each one attaches to the twig by itself. Needles are about 1 inch long. The bark is silvery-gray and smooth on young trees and more like cork on older trees.



Blue spruce: Found in high elevations with spiky, square-shaped needles often with a blue tint.



Photo by Stan Shebs

Narrowleaf cottonwood: Grows along streams at lower elevations. Leaves are 2 to 4 inches long and up to 1½ inches wide. Leaves turn yellow in the fall and fall off in the winter.



Quaking aspen: Tall trunks with smooth, silver-white bark. Leaves are heart-shaped with a flat stem and fall off in the winter. The flat stem catches the wind and causes the leaves to quake, which is where its name came from.



Photo by Sheri Hagwood/BLM

Willow: There are many kinds of willow in Wyoming. Generally, willows are found near streams or rivers, have long branches and flexible stems with many long, narrow and pointed leaves along the stem.

NATURE BINGO

See if you can spot these items when you are exploring the outdoors. Mark off the space when you see each item. If you can get five in a row, either across, up and down or diagonally, you win! For "extra credit" see if you can find them all!

Frog or toad	Aspen tree	Body of water	Animal track	Bird feather
Worm or bug under a rock	White flower	Sagebrush	Butterfly or moth	Insect living in the water
Mountain	Stream or river	★	Pronghorn	Pinecone
Cactus	Rabbit	Evergreen tree	Yellow flower	Shiny rock
Antler	Smooth rock	A bird	Bird nest	Squirrel

Wild pairings

Animals can do some incredible things and several have developed special traits to attract mates in unique ways. Some animals fight during breeding season, others may change color or dance. Here are some of the interesting adaptations Wyoming animals have during mating season:



ELK

Have you ever heard an elk bugle? They don't just do it for fun. Male elk, called bulls, make a loud, high-pitched sound during their mating season. They bugle to show off for female elk, called cows. Bugling also warns other bulls to stay away or challenges them to a fight.

SAGE GROUSE

These birds return to the same area each spring for a special dance. These special areas are called leks and they are areas where sage grouse gather to breed. Male sage grouse put on a sunrise show by dancing for the females, who decide which males to mate with based on their dance.



KOKANEE

This species of landlocked salmon goes through some big changes when they spawn. Females lay eggs that are fertilized by the males. Although these fish are usually silver in color, they turn a brilliant red with a green and black head when they spawn. The males change even more by developing a hump on their backs.

BIGHORN SHEEP

Bighorn sheep breed during the fall. The males, called rams, have large horns that can weigh up to 30 pounds. Not only are their horns heavy, but rams live up to their name by ramming their heads into each other at speeds up to 40 mph as they fight for a mate.



HORNYHEAD CHUBS

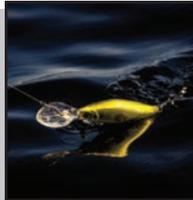
They may not seem threatening, but don't try to mess with the eggs of these small fish. During the breeding season males develop growths on their heads that resemble horns. Then they build nests where females can lay their eggs. The males stick around after the eggs are fertilized to defend the nests and keep predators away.



Summertime Sound Safari



Head outdoors and see how many of these sounds you can hear on your own nature sound safari:

<input type="checkbox"/>  Wind in the trees		<input type="checkbox"/>  Prairie dogs or ground squirrels chirping		<input type="checkbox"/>  Mosquitoes or flies buzzing	
 <input type="checkbox"/>  Rocks, sticks or grass crunching under your feet		<input type="checkbox"/>  Snake slithering through the grass		<input type="checkbox"/>  Owl hooting	
<input type="checkbox"/>  Water flowing in a creek or river		<input type="checkbox"/>  Beaver slapping its tail on the water		<input type="checkbox"/>  Frogs croaking	
 <input type="checkbox"/>  Waves lapping on the shore		<input type="checkbox"/>  Grasshoppers clicking		<input type="checkbox"/>  Duck quacking	
<input type="checkbox"/>  Birds calling		<input type="checkbox"/>  Thunder		<input type="checkbox"/>  Fish jumping	
 <input type="checkbox"/>  Rain falling		<input type="checkbox"/>  Coyotes howling		<input type="checkbox"/>  Fishing lure plunking into the water	
<input type="checkbox"/>  Squirrels chattering or barking		<input type="checkbox"/>  Cracking campfire		<input type="checkbox"/>  Fill in any other interesting sounds you hear:	<hr/> <hr/> <hr/>

WHEN I GROW UP I WANT TO BE A...

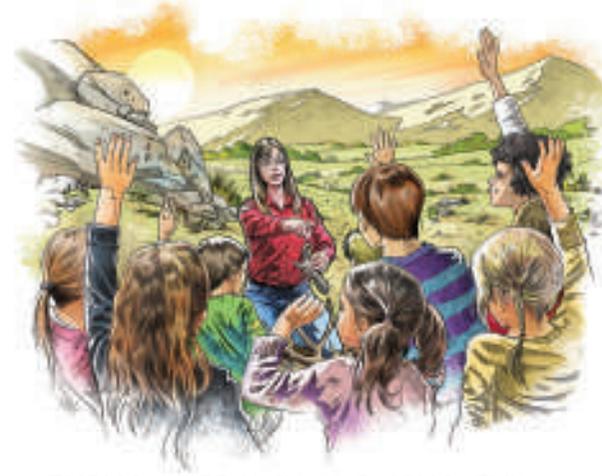
ILLUSTRATIONS BY MARIO NÓCHE

DID YOU KNOW THERE ARE TONS OF DIFFERENT JOBS AT THE WYOMING GAME AND FISH DEPARTMENT? WHETHER YOU LIKE TO WORK WITH ANIMALS, WITH COMPUTERS OR JUST WANT TO BE OUTSIDE, THERE ARE OPPORTUNITIES AT GAME AND FISH. HERE ARE JUST A FEW EXAMPLES OF WHAT YOU COULD DO!



FISH CULTURIST

- Spawns and raises fish at fish hatcheries.
- Puts fish in ponds, lakes and other waters in Wyoming.
- Studies fish to make sure they're healthy.



PUBLIC OUTREACH AND EDUCATION

- Tells the public what is happening with wildlife in the state.
- Creates content through video, writing, social media, magazine, photography and more.
- Teaches hunter education, visits schools and leads summer camps to teach about wildlife conservation.



WILDLIFE FORENSIC & FISH HEALTH LAB

- Tests samples from fish for disease and illness.
- Investigates evidence from wildlife crimes.
- Finds out the age of harvested wildlife using the animal's teeth.



FISH OR WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST

- Researches species in their natural habitats.
- Monitors animal populations and sets limits for hunters and anglers.
- Analyzes data to learn more about wildlife and fish in the state.



WARDEN

- Enforces Wyoming's hunting, trapping, fishing and boating laws and regulations.
- Interacts with landowners and sportspeople while educating the public about wildlife.
- Works with biologists to manage Wyoming's fish and wildlife species.



HABITAT BIOLOGIST

- Operates big machinery to improve habitat for wildlife and fish.
- Monitors landscape to make sure there is quality habitat.
- Manages wildlife habitat management areas.



ACCOUNTING/LICENSING PROFESSIONAL

- Coordinates the draw process for hunting licenses.
- Sells hunting and fishing licenses and answers questions from the public.
- Processes contracts, grants and payments.



Wyoming Youth Fishing Challenge

Want to get started fishing or learn more about fishing in Wyoming? The Wyoming Youth Fishing Challenge provides kids a chance to learn about many of the fish in the state and offers rewards for catching them. If you achieve any of the following challenges, you will receive a collectible certificate from the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.



La Gory

Trout Trio

Catch any three species or subspecies of trout found in Wyoming: brook, brown, cutthroat, golden, grayling, kokanee, lake, rainbow, splake and tiger.



La Gory

Cowboy Chase

Catch any two of these fish native to Wyoming: burbot, channel catfish, sauger, shovelnose sturgeon, stonecat and mountain whitefish.



La Gory

Cool Catch

Catch any two of these fish commonly found in larger, cooler waters: crappie, northern pike, smallmouth bass, tiger muskie, walleye and yellow perch.



La Gory

Pond Pair

Catch any two of these fish commonly found in smaller, warmer waters: black bullhead, bluegill, green sunfish, largemouth bass, pumpkinseed and rock bass.



La Gory

Habitat Counts

Catch a fish from three of the different habitats: beaver ponds, lakes, ponds, reservoirs, rivers, small streams and tailwaters.



La Gory

Hatchery Hop

Visit four of Wyoming's state or national fish hatcheries/rearing stations: Auburn, Boulder, Clark's Fork, Daniel, Dubois, Speas, Story, Ten Sleep, Tillett, Wigwam, Saratoga (national) and Jackson (national).



La Gory

Champion Angler

Complete five of the six challenges listed above.

Eligibility Requirements

- Any youth (resident or nonresident 18-years-old and under).
- All fish must be caught in Wyoming.
- Photos must be taken with the youth and the fish at the water of capture.
- Verification sheet and photos must be submitted to the Wyoming Game and Fish Department for authorization.
- Fish can be caught over multiple years.

Youth Fishing Challenge verification form

<https://bit.ly/3tFSy0P>

Find a place to fish in your town

<https://bit.ly/3IGWHHs>

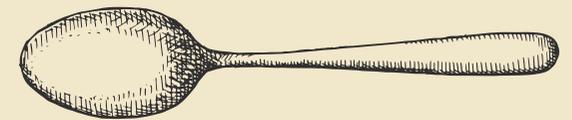
Build your own lure out of a plastic spoon

What you will need

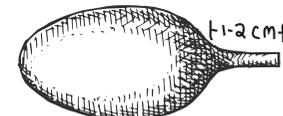
- Plastic spoon
- Acrylic paint
- Paintbrush
- Two slip loops
- Swivel
- Hook
- Drill and drill bit
- Saw

Steps

Step 1: Make sure to involve an adult while you are making your spoon lure! The drill and saw should only be used by adults or with adult supervision.



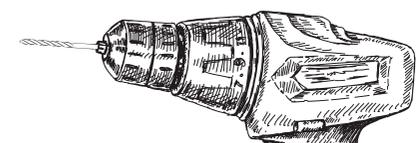
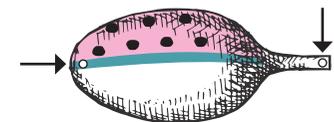
Step 2: Use a saw to cut the handle off the plastic spoon, leaving 1-2 cm of the handle intact.



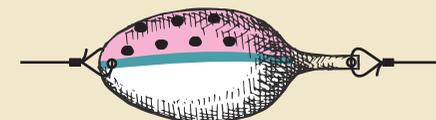
Step 3: Paint the spoon! You can get really creative here. Use reflective tape or glittery paint to make your spoon look like the shell of a beetle or other spoon lures you see online or in your tackle box.



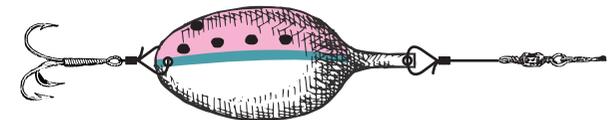
Step 4: Drill a small hole toward the end of what is left of the handle, and the end of the bowl.



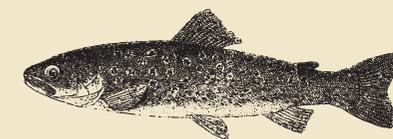
Step 5: Thread a slip loop into each of the holes you have drilled.



Step 6: Attach the swivel to the loop on the handle end and the hook to the hole in the bowl.



Step 7: Try out your new fishing spoon!



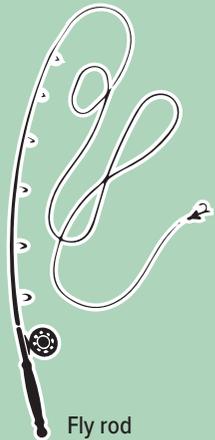
SEARCH FOR THE HIDDEN ITEMS



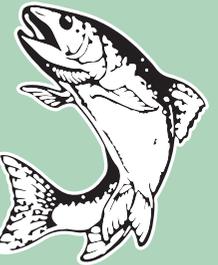
Pacific marten



Meadowlark



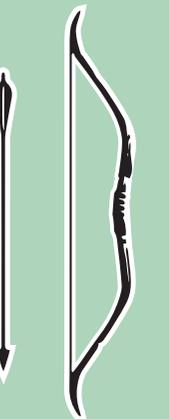
Fly rod



Trout



Indian paintbrush



Bow and arrow



Antler



Binoculars



Tiger salamander



Tent



Boot prints



Compass



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