

Sculpin Hunt

SWBAT demonstrate how camouflage helps a tidepool animal survive.

Introduction:

Tidepools often are small and do not have many places to hide from predators. Many tidepool animals use camouflage to escape from danger.

Tidepool sculpins use this ability to blend in very well. They are trying to avoid predators such as the Great Blue Heron. Camouflage also helps the sculpin surprise smaller fish, shrimp, and other prey. Sea slugs are not camouflaged - they just taste bad and are very colorful.

Tidepool Sculpins

- usually have mottled colors to blend in with surroundings
- can stay motionless to avoid predators
- are less than 10 cm. long

Sculpin Hunt Game

Review camouflage with pictures, role playing, etc.

Students color a paper sculpin fish to match the colors somewhere in the room. Cut out fish.

Divide the class into two teams: The Sculpins and The Herons.

Hérons leave the room while Sculpins hide their fish in a place where they are not likely to be seen but not hidden "in" something. Darken the room to mimic decreased light in a tidepool.

Hérons come in, walk around like a wading bird (no running). Give 3 minutes to find all the Sculpin.

Switch team players and play again.

