

# Animal Camouflage

LEVEL 6

Written by: Caroline Laidlaw  
Series Editor: Melanie Williams



Hiding from Danger	4
Disguises in the Sea	6
Hiding on Plants	8
Hiding on the Ground	12
Hiding in Trees	19
Stripes and Spots	24
Fur and Feathers	28
Is it Real or is it a Copy?	32
The Best Tricks and Disguises	35
Glossary	38
Activities	39



# Hiding from Danger

LEBRIS

We know  
books

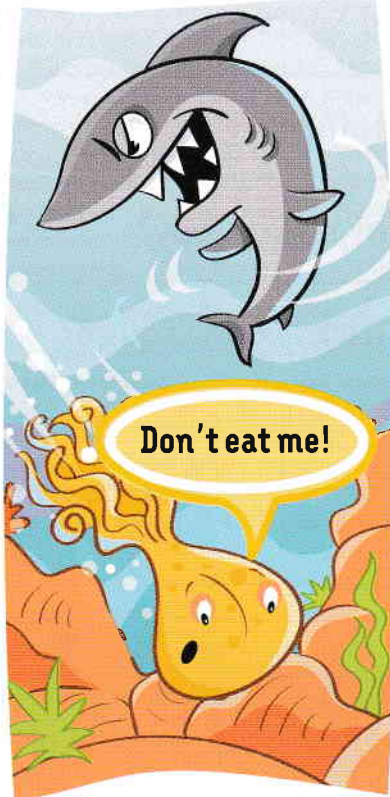


Hello! I'm Marko, the Octopus. The shark was a hungry predator and it could swim fast. So, how did I escape? I just climbed onto a rock and disguised myself. I couldn't swim fast enough to escape. The fish didn't see me because I disappeared. I'm good at tricks. An octopus can change colour to match the colour of the rock. Now I am the same colour as I was before.

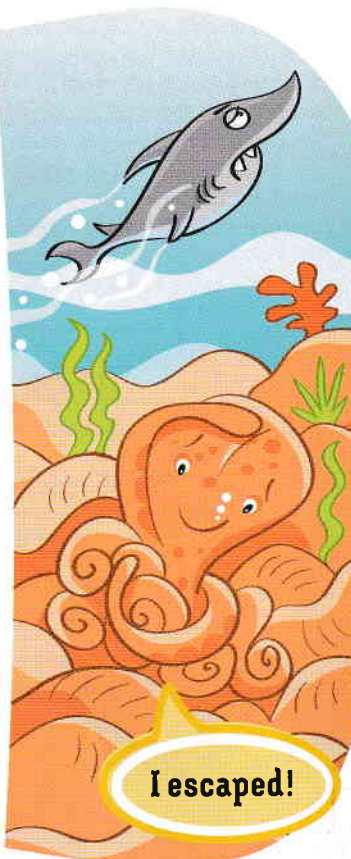
Help!



Don't eat me!



I escaped!



When animals hide themselves in this way, it is called camouflage. Sometimes predators hide when they are hunting. Other animals hide because they are a meal for predators. We call a hunted animal prey.

There's more than one way to escape a predator, you know. Can you see a fish in this picture? It is almost invisible, isn't it? Its body is always the same colour as the sand. This fish cannot change colour to escape. It must stay quietly in the surroundings which match its colour. If it moves, a predator will see it.

This kind of camouflage can protect the fish because it is a disguise which works well.



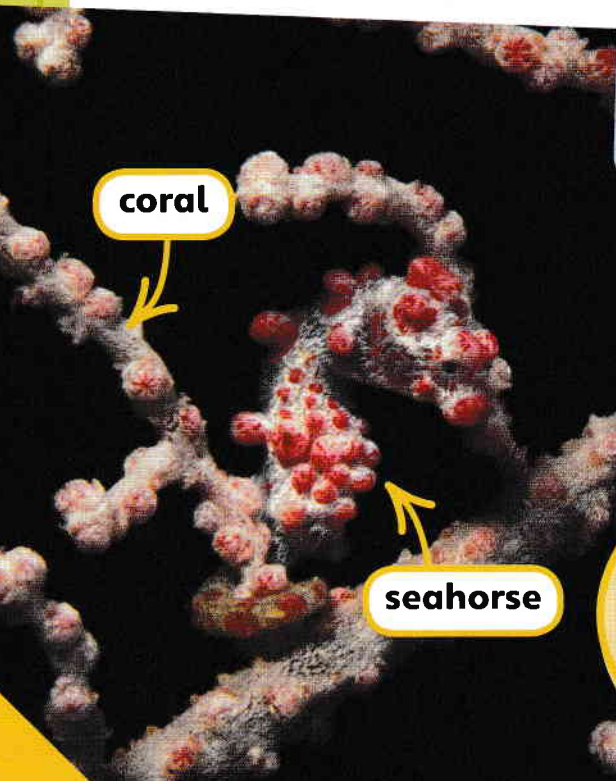
# Disguises in the Sea

LBRIIS

We know  
books

This seahorse has one of the best disguises in the ocean. Where did the leaves come from? They are part of the seahorse's body. A predator may see the leaves, but not the seahorse. It is a great way to avoid danger.

Another seahorse lives in more colourful surroundings where it needs a different disguise. Can you see the seahorse in the pink and white coral? Its body looks like real coral.

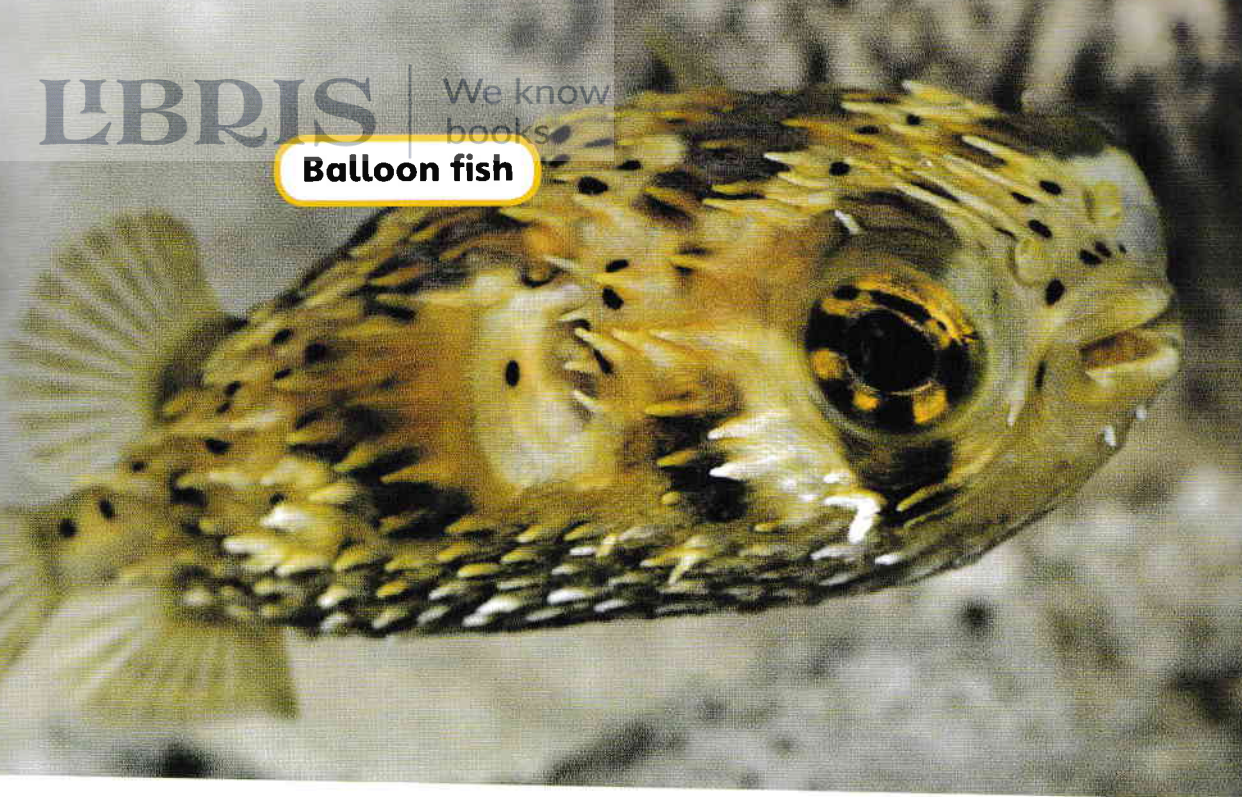


coral

seahorse



**Did you know?**  
Before baby seahorses are born, they grow inside their father's body. No other male animal can do this.

**Balloon fish**

A Balloon fish can change its shape when it is in danger. Its yellow and white body has black spots, and spikes which lie against the fish's body. When the fish sees a predator, it fills itself with water or air to look much bigger. The spikes round its body stand up and look hard and sharp.

Wise predators will not attack a spiky ball. They are stupid if they try. Why? The spikes can hurt a predator's mouth. Even worse, the fish itself is poisonous, and can kill. This clever disguise protects both the Balloon fish and its predator.

