

Unit 2

Copycat Animals

In this unit, I will . . .

- describe animal features.
- describe how animals protect themselves.
- talk about ways animals imitate others.
- write a paragraph of classification.

Check **T** for *True* and **F** for *False*.

1. This is a plant.

T F

2. It is very soft.

T F

3. It is very small.

T F

4. It has sharp teeth.

T F

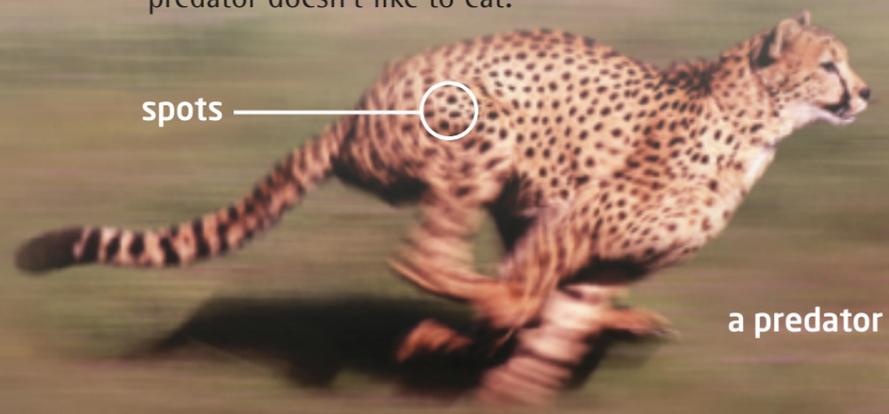


Allied cowrie,
Papua New Guinea

1 Listen and read. TR: A10

2 Listen and repeat. TR: A11

Some animals can look like other animals or even like a plant! These copycats are trying to hide from or trick a hungry **predator**. They can look like another more dangerous animal or like another animal the predator doesn't like to eat.



a predator

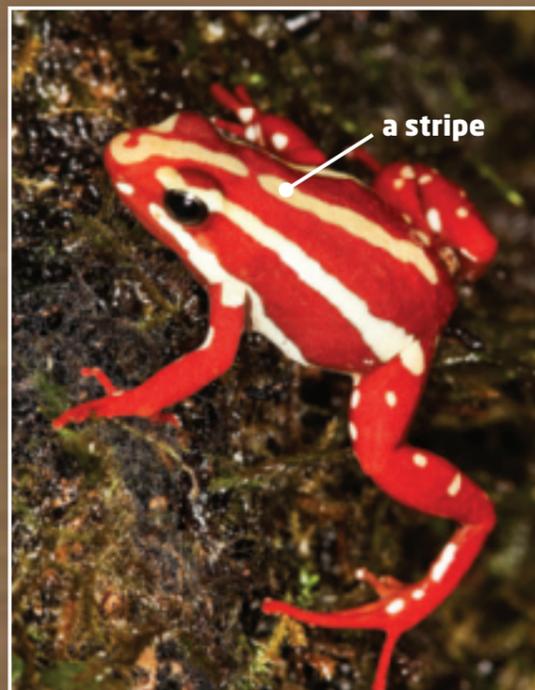
This cheetah's black **spots** act as **camouflage**. This way, the cheetah doesn't **frighten** its **prey** when it's time to **hunt**.



prey



These butterflies are not the same **species**, but they **resemble** each other. The top one tastes bad. The other one **copies** its shape and colors, and tastes bad, too.



a stripe

This colorful frog has **stripes** on its skin. The bright colors tell hungry predators that the frog is **poisonous**.



This **insect** is as green as a leaf. It **imitates** the **characteristics** of color and shape of leaves to help it **hide** from predators.

3 Work with a partner. What did you learn? Ask and answer.

How do some frogs show they are poisonous?

They have bright colors.



4 Listen, read, and sing. TR: A12

It's a Wild World

*It's a wild world!
It's work to stay alive!
Animals do amazing things
in order to survive.*

*An insect that looks like a leaf
copies plants to get relief.
Predators are everywhere,
and looking for a feast!*

CHORUS

*Camouflage and imitate.
Resemble and escape!
Animals hide in front of our eyes, every day.*

*The hunter and the hunted,
predator and prey,
must hunt or hide to stay alive,
each and every day.*

*A pretty frog can be as deadly as a snake.
Its stripes tell its enemies
"You'd better stay away!"*

CHORUS

It's a wild world!

5 Work with a partner. Ask and answer.

1. What predators have you seen?
2. What is their prey?
3. How does the prey avoid predators?



Lionfish, Indonesia

GRAMMAR TR: A13

That katydid is **as green as** the leaf it sits on.
That butterfly is not **as pretty as** the blue one.
Poison dart frogs are **as dangerous as** some snakes.

6 Read and write. Work with a partner. Take turns. Compare.

1. some insects / thin / sticks

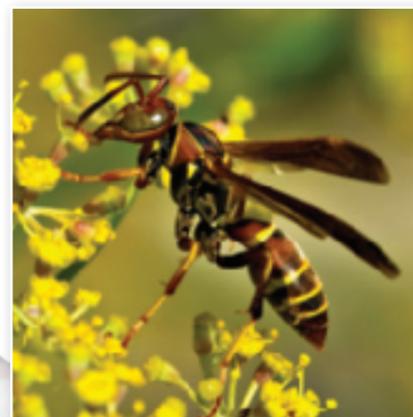
2. a polar bear / white / snow

3. king snakes / not dangerous / coral snakes

4. a bee sting / bad / a wasp sting

5. a lion / not loud / a howler monkey

a bee



a wasp

7 Compare the animals. Choose one word from each group. Make sentences.

fast heavy slow loud small smooth

a jaguar an elephant a seal a donkey

a horse an otter a deer a hippo a crocodile a newt

a salamander an alligator

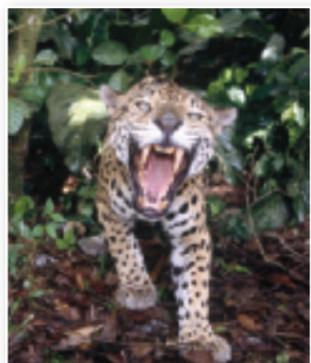
8 Work in a group. Take turns. Make sentences. Use the last word in each sentence to start the next sentence.



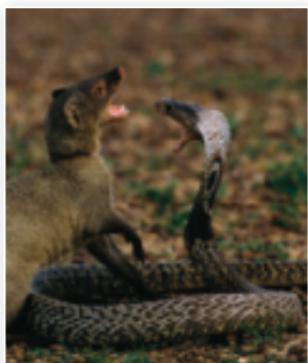
9 Listen and repeat. Then read and write. **TR: A14**



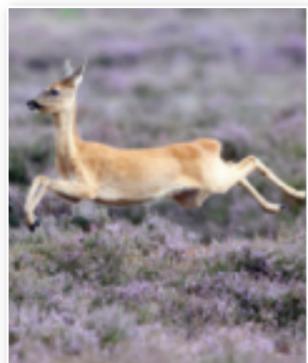
The butterfly fish **confuses** its predators with a spot like an eye.



The jaguar **attacks**.



The cobra **defends** itself. The mongoose **avoids** its bite.



The deer **escapes** by running away.

- All predators _____ prey.
- Bluebirds _____ their eggs from predators.
- Calabar pythons have tails that look like heads. This _____ predators so they will not know where to strike!
- Some animals use camouflage to _____ predators.
- A rabbit that runs fast can _____ the coyote that chases it.

10 Listen. Stick *True* or *False*. Work with a partner. Compare your answers. **TR: A15**

The spot on the tail looks like an eye. The sentence is true.

You are right! My turn.

1

2

3

4

5

GRAMMAR TR: A16

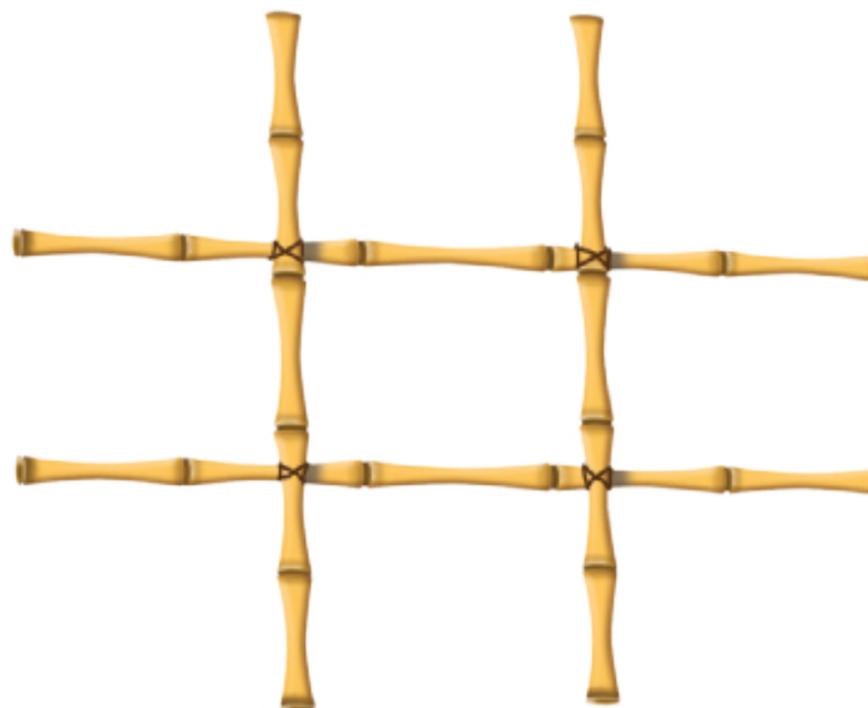
The jaguar **is** dangerous, **isn't it?**
 Those snakes **are** scary, **aren't they?**
 This insect **looks** like a stick, **doesn't it?**
 Giraffes **don't** eat meat, **do they?**

That frog **wasn't** poisonous, **was it?**
 The cat **escaped** the dog, **didn't it?**
 The dogs **were** loud, **weren't they?**
 The cats **weren't** friendly, **were they?**

11 Read. Complete the sentences.

- The katydid is pretending it's a leaf, _____?
- The donkey doesn't look thirsty, _____?
- That python really confused its predator, _____?
- Cats like sleeping in the sun, _____?
- Baby penguins are so cute, _____?
- Those weren't copycat animals, _____?

12 Play a game. Cut the question tags on p. 163. Glue nine to complete your game. Listen. Which tag completes the sentence? If you have it, draw an X on the square. **TR: A17**



I have three in a row!

13 Listen and read. TR: A18

Copycats

The leafy sea dragon is a weird but beautiful copycat. From its name you would think it imitates a dragon, wouldn't you? But no, it only gets that name from its funny shape. The leafy sea dragon imitates what is around it. It lives in seaweed, and so its body looks like a seaweed leaf. The sea dragon imitates the shape and color of seaweed, and it even looks like floating seaweed when it moves. It doesn't use the parts of its body that look like a leaf to swim. It uses fins that are transparent, so it's hard to see them move.

The leafy sea dragon does not only look like a copycat. It also dances like a copycat. A male and female sea dragon will copy each other's movements for hours!

The mimic octopus is the only sea creature that can imitate many different species. It not only changes its color, it also changes its shape. It has arms as thick as pencils. When it spreads them wide, they look like the spines of a lionfish. It can hide some of its arms in the sand but leave two arms out. Then with its white and brown stripes and the two arms, it looks like a sea snake! It can also pull its arms together and swim on the sea floor, so to a predator, it looks like a poisonous flatfish!

Like other octopuses, the mimic octopus has eight arms and three hearts. It swims by shooting out jets of water through a siphon. It also has a large brain for its size. That's one smart octopus!



One kind of spider tricks predators by imitating an ant. It holds two legs up to look more like an ant when it walks.



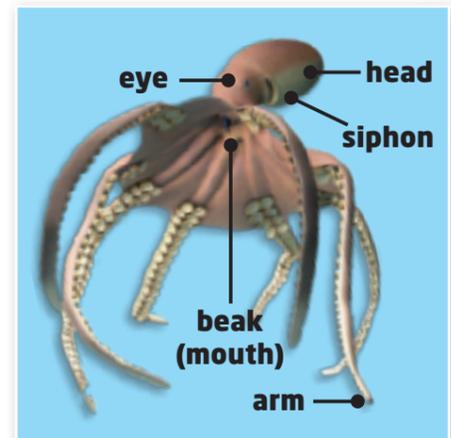
A mimic octopus imitating a poisonous flatfish

14 Read and write. Work with a partner. Compare your answers.

1. What does the leafy sea dragon imitate? _____
2. What does the leafy sea dragon use to swim? _____
3. What does the mimic octopus look like? _____
4. What does the mimic octopus do with its arms? _____

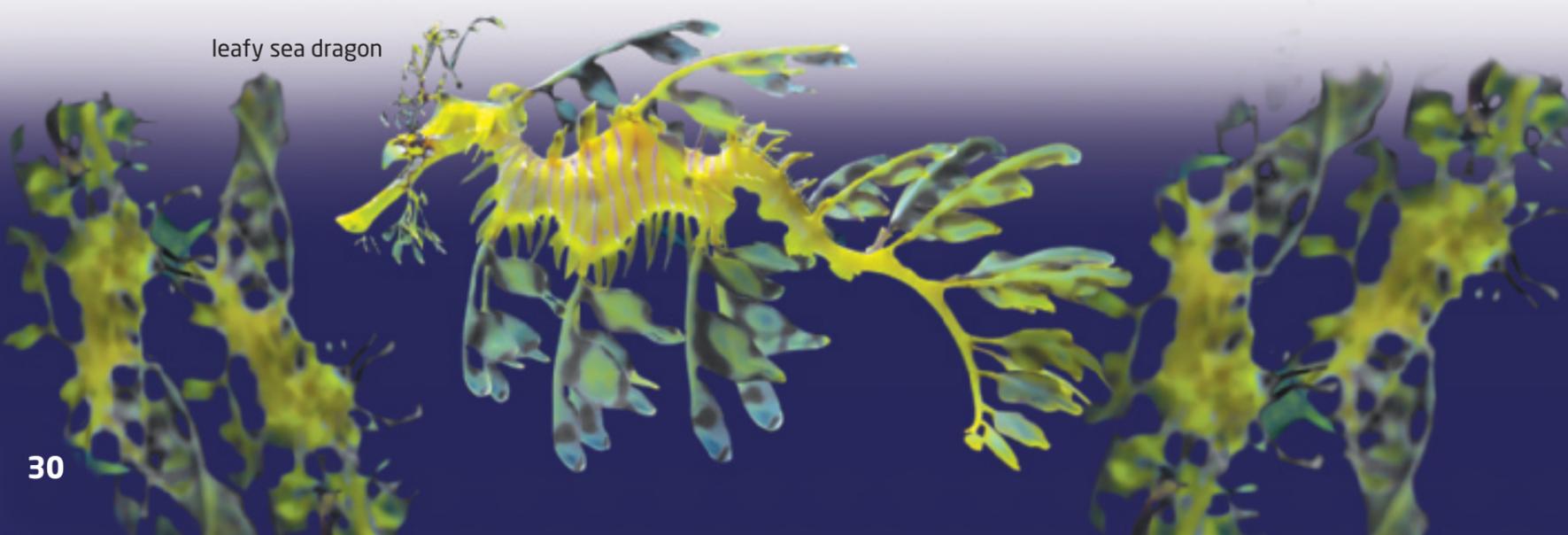
15 Work with a partner. Choose the leafy sea dragon or the mimic octopus to talk about. Your partner will listen and complete the first row. Then listen to your partner and fill in the second row.

Habitat	Shape	Color	Movement



An octopus

16 Work in groups of three. Take turns. Summarize the reading.



leafy sea dragon



Paragraphs of Classification

A paragraph of classification describes characteristics that members of a group share. You can define, compare, and contrast details to show how things belong to a group or class. You can use words such as *both*, *each of*, *like*, *but*, and *unlike*.

- 17 Read.** Read about two types of copycat animals. How does the writer classify them? What words does the writer use to show their characteristics? Underline the words and expressions.

One or Two Ways to Imitate

Some animals copy other animals to avoid attack. They copy the things that predators avoid, such as a bad taste or a dangerous weapon. Some species copy the appearance of another animal, but not other characteristics. For example, the viceroy and the soldier butterfly resemble each other. They also both taste bad to predators. These types of animals imitate in two ways. The ash borer moth looks like a wasp, but it doesn't have a stinger. Predators avoid it, but it can't sting them. The ash borer moth belongs to the class of animals that only copies appearance.



viceroy butterfly



ash borer moth

- 18 Write.** Write about animals that belong to a certain type. Describe the characteristics that they share.

- 19 Work in a small group.** Share your writing.

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

Mission

Protect biodiversity.

- Why is it important to preserve diverse species of animals?
- How does biodiversity affect your community?
- Work in a small group. Discuss a local species of animal. Think of ways to protect it. Discuss and write the best ideas in the box.

- Work with another group. Share your ideas. Are they the same or different? Which ideas does everyone like best?



“We need to increase people’s interest and awareness about wildlife and conservation issues and reduce the general disconnect from nature.”

Krithi Karanth
Conservation Biologist
Emerging Explorer



tarsier

20 Make a classroom mural.

1. Work in small groups. Choose a habitat such as an ocean, a forest, or a desert.
2. Discuss how animals protect themselves in that place.
3. In your part of the mural, show some animals that use camouflage and some that survive in other ways.

There is a leaf-tailed gecko on a tree trunk in the rain forest. It uses camouflage to survive. Can you see it?



Now I can . . .

- describe animal features.
- describe how animals protect themselves.
- talk about ways animals imitate others.
- write a paragraph of classification.