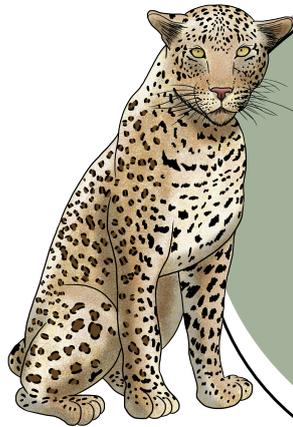


Now you see me...

Camouflage is important for the survival of certain animals in the rainforest. Unlike the bush carrot, bright red to ensure it is seen and eaten, other animals do not want to be seen:

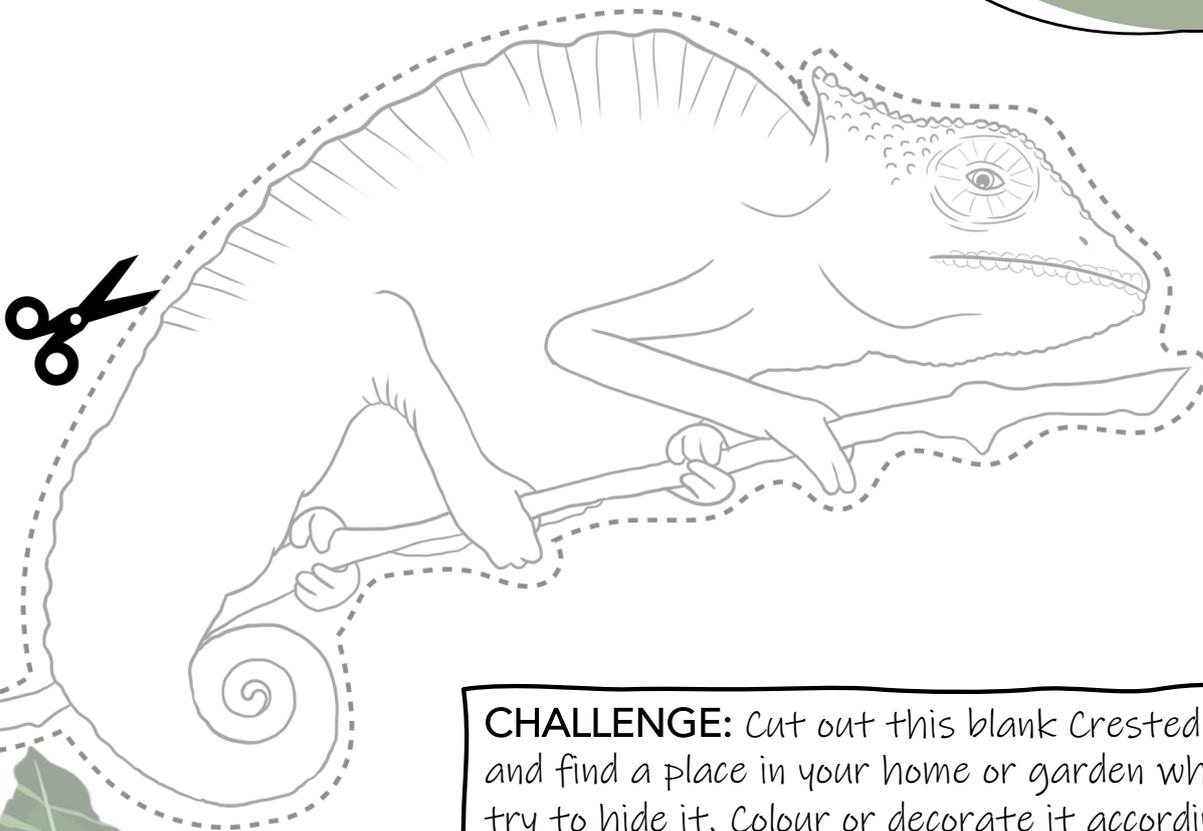
- Some animals camouflage so that they can hide from predators, **avoiding being eaten**
- Other animals camouflage so that they can sneak up on their prey without being seen, **making sure they get a meal.**

Some patterns seem bold and obvious like the leopard's marvellous spots. The leopard's fur is easy to spot against a blank background but is perfect for blending into the leaves, twigs and vines in the rainforest.



What is camouflage?

The use of colours, patterns and textures to make the animal difficult to see against its environment or to disguise as something else.



Other animals have colours and patterns that do closely blend into their background just like chameleons.

CHALLENGE: Cut out this blank Crested Chameleon and find a place in your home or garden where you will try to hide it. Colour or decorate it accordingly so that it best matches the background. See how long it takes anyone else to notice! Tag us in your best photos.

Another kind of camouflage is **mimicry**; where an animal or plant mimics/disguises itself as something else to protect it from being eaten.

Animals may mimic an object like a leaf to blend into its surroundings. Other animals can be mimicked too. Here's an example explaining how and why...

This moth, known to scientists as *Aletia helcita*, is unpalatable (does not taste nice!) to predators.



Because of its foul taste, predators know to avoid it. We call this the **model**.

This butterfly, the Eleus Orange Forester, is tasty and predators would find it pleasant to eat.



Amazingly, this butterfly has **evolved** the same wing pattern as the bad tasting moth meaning that predators avoid them too. We call this the **mimic**.



What does it mean to evolve?

Species have traits that help them survive, for example this butterfly having the same wing pattern as the moth means it survives longer because it does not get eaten. Helpful traits are passed onto offspring and unhelpful ones are not.

CHALLENGE: Try your best at mimicking this African leaf butterfly by drawing it in your rainforest journal. Why not research some more butterflies to mimic as well? Tag us in your photos for your chance to feature in the e-letter!