

Animal Coloration

Name: _____

Date: _____

The colors of an animal are very important to their survival, but can serve many different purposes. Below, describe how each color pattern helps the animal, then color in the picture.

Warning Colors (aposematic): Bright colors often serve to warn others that this animal may be harmful. The Yellow Boxfish displays these colors.



Cryptic Colors: This is colorations that helps an animal blend into their habitat and surroundings. The Big Bellied Seahorse hides well with the rocky bottom and grasses where it lives.



Counter Shading: A darker color on their back (dorsal) and lighter color on their underside (ventral) allows aquatic animals to blend in with both the dark deep sea and brighter shallows above. This can be seen in penguins, sea turtles, sharks and more.



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