**Information for BZL Teacher-Led Lesson about Animal Coverings**

Adaptations for Camouflage and Warmth Species Notes

NOTE: These description may be used by adults as a reference guide while working with the students at the display tables. Not all of these species will necessarily be used for each class.

GRAY WOLF

* Blends with surroundings
* Thicker coat in winter
* Bushy tail can be wrapped across the nose to keep it from freezing while it sleeps.

COTTON TAIL RABBIT

* Coat blends in with surroundings.
* Dense fur is longer in winter.

ARCTIC FOX

* Blends with surroundings: White, dense fur in winter; lighter, gray/brown fur in summer (Our blue-phase fox appears silver in winter and black in summer.)
* Fur on bottom of feet for added warmth and better traction on snow and ice
* Thick tail acts as a “blanket.”
* Ears are small and thickly furred to prevent frost bite.

CARIBOU

* Color blends in with surroundings.
* Warm, dense undercoat, hollow guard hairs provide insulation in winter.

SNOW LEOPARD

* Spots blend with surroundings in rocky, snowy mountains.
* Thicker coat in winter
* Fur on bottom of feet for added warmth and better traction on snow and ice
* Long, bushy tail can protect nose from severe cold by being curled around the body with the end draped across the face.
* Small ears minimize heat loss

AMUR TIGER

* Stripes blend with surroundings in forest.
* Thicker and shaggier coat in winter

PYTHON

* Patterns blend with surroundings.
* The python is cold blooded but lives in warm weather areas so it remains active.

SEAL

* Countershading: In water from above, dark on top blends with water; from below, light on bottom blends with sky.
* In zoo, penguins and river otters
* Waterproof fur helps keep warm, as well as blubber and other adaptations.

SEA TURTLE

* Countershading: In water from above, dark on top blends with water; from below, light on bottom blends with sky.

RIVER OTTER

* Not observable from pelt but countershading: In water from above, dark on top blends with water; from below, light on bottom blends with sky.
* Warm undercoat traps body heat, and outer coat waterproofed with oils from oil gland. Together they insulate from cold air and water.

ZEBRA

* Disruptive coloration of stripes: When in group, difficult to tell where one starts and another begins so it temporarily confuses predators.
* Lives in warm weather areas so does not need dense fur for warmth.

MILK SNAKE

* Milk snake is non-venomous and mimics the coral snake, which uses bright colors to warn that it is venomous.

VICEROY BUTTERFLY

* The viceroy butterfly is non-poisonous and mimics the monarch butterfly, which is poisonous.

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