**MATCHSTICK CAMOUFLAGE**

**Aim:** To find out which colours are suitable for camouflage in different environments.

**Materials:**

* 10 each of different coloured match sticks
* A small clear space outside
* Stopwatch

**Method:**

1. Each group needs 10 matchsticks of each colour. If you have red, blue, yellow and green matchsticks, each person should get 40 matchsticks in total.
2. Take your coloured match sticks to a patch of green grass. Mix up the matchsticks and drop them in the grass. Try to distribute them evenly.
3. Set the timer, or have someone watch the time, for two minutes. Have one person pick up as many matchsticks as you can before time’s up. At the end of two minutes, sort by colour the matchsticks that you picked up. Count and record how many of each colour you found. You can repeat this step for different people to search if you like.
4. Collect all your match sticks off the ground (make sure you have the same amount as you started with)
5. Repeat steps 2 and 3 in a clear space in the garden, on the concrete and in the gravel.

**Results:**

**One per person (copy into your books)**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Colour of match stick** | **Number collected** | | |
| **Grass** | **Wood Chips** | **Gravel** |
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**Questions:**

1. Which colour matchsticks were the easiest to find for each surface?
2. Which colour matchsticks were the most difficult to find for each surface?
3. Why do you think so?
4. Explain why it’s good for an animal to be the same colour as its surroundings.