How animals protect themselves: outcomes and activities

God is Protector Foundation Year

Spiritual Awareness: God is our shelter
God has placed within His creation mechanisms and behaviours that enable animals to protect themselves. This was necessary for animals to survive after the Fall, when for the first time, some animals became carnivorous. God provides protection for His people too, when they love and serve Him.

Values: Our response to 'God is a Protector'
- **trust** God and have faith in Him
- **courage**: we have peace, and are not afraid because God is with us
- **confidence** in God as our protector

Outcomes: Students will
- know the meaning of 'protect'
- know who protects them
- understand how certain animals protect themselves

Key Questions
- Who looks after you and keeps you safe?
- How do Mother and Father animals protect their babies?
- How does God protect us?
- When should we ask Him to protect us?

Activities
People who protect us

What does it mean to *protect* something? "It means to stop it from getting hurt or broken", or "Keeping safe".

What does it mean to *protect* someone?

God protected Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego in the fire because they loved and served Him.

God has given special protection for children through Mums, Dads, Grandparents, teachers, and other people who love them. We are protected when we obey them.

Example: Dad says "Don't play near the road."

Mum says, "Don't touch the iron."

What happens if we disobey?

Activity: Make a large chart called "People who love and protect me". Ask the student to draw people in their lives who love and protect them. These can be cut out and stuck on to the chart, with the child's name and who they have drawn.

How animals hide

When God made the world, everything was beautiful. There was no rubbish, no insect pests, and animals did not kill one another. But when Adam and Eve disobeyed God in the Garden of Eden, Satan entered God's beautiful world and made some animals kill other animals. The lions, who used to eat just grass, now wanted to eat meat! That meant killing other animals. God was sad, so gave some animals special markings to help them hide from the lions. In Africa, where lions live, they kill zebras and giraffe for their food. But God gave the zebra stripes and the giraffe patterns that blend in with the shadows of the trees. Although lions still kill zebras and giraffes, they cannot kill so many because they do not always see them hiding. God also made zebras and giraffes fast runners so that they can run away from lions.

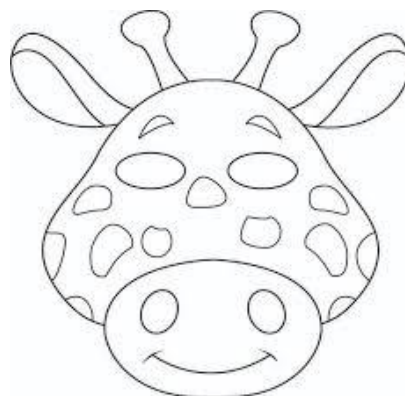Draw animals hiding against their background.

Zebras

Every zebra has its own special pattern of black and white stripes. Their stripes help them not to be seen in the shadows of the trees. Zebras are a type of horse and they can run fast. Zebras have excellent eyesight and hearing. Zebras stand up while sleeping. Zebras eat grass.

Giraffes

Giraffes are the tallest animal on Earth. They can run very fast. A giraffe's neck is too short to reach the ground, so they spread their legs out to make themselves lower when drinking. Giraffes only need to drink once every few days. Their brown patches help them blend in with the shadows of the trees, so lions do not see them easily.

Animal masks: zebra and giraffe

How animals hide in a rock pool

A sand crab is the same colour as the sand. Some crabs hide under rocks. A shellfish can pull its body inside the shell to protect itself. Small fish hide in sea weed to protect themselves.

Sea stars*, (previously called star fish,)* are protected by their tough skin, which is not tasty! If it loses an arm, it can grow one back again!

Make a rock pool from a large plastic bowl. Add sand, rocks/smooth stones, shells & green ribbons for sea weed. You could draw on to some of the smooth stones: crabs, sea stars or small fish, using a permanent marker. Fill with water and allow free play.

Nature walk
Go on a walk around your neighbourhood and try to find animals that are hiding. Look under rocks, in trees and on the ground. Make a book about what you found.