

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Predator or Prey?

Science Texts

Adapted from a piece by Jack L. Roberts and Tyler Shook

Predators are animals that hunt, kill, and eat other animals. The hunted animals are called prey. Predators and prey work together to keep an ecosystem in balance. Predators who eat too much prey may run out of food. Predators and prey need each other to survive over time. There are many ways that animals try to be successful as predators or as prey.

Camouflage is how animals blend in with what is around them. They use color or physical features to do this. Their skin, fur, or feathers can blend in so that they can hide. Predators and prey use camouflage. They want to be able to move around without being noticed.

Both predators and prey use their speed. Predators use speed to catch their prey. Prey also use speed to get away from predators.

Some animals have a strong sense of sight, smell, or hearing. This helps them to hunt or to keep from being eaten. They can see, hear, or smell a predator (or prey) that is far away.

All animals must eat to stay alive. Some animals rely on other animals as food. The ways that animals hunt or escape are very important. This is what keeps different species alive!



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## A Bird, came down the Walk

Adapted from a piece by Emily Dickinson

A Bird, came down the Walk—  
He did not know I saw—  
He bit an Angle Worm in halves  
And ate the fellow, raw,

And then, he drank a Dew  
From a convenient Grass—  
And then hopped sidewise to the Wall  
To let a Beetle pass—

He glanced with rapid eyes,  
That hurried all abroad—  
They looked like frightened Beads, I thought,  
He stirred his Velvet Head.—

Like one in danger, Cautious,  
I offered him a Crumb,  
And he unrolled his feathers,  
And rowed him softer Home—

Than Oars divide the Ocean,  
Too silver for a seam,  
Or Butterflies, off Banks of Noon,  
Leap, plashless as they swim.

