

Animal weaponry

Specimen scavenger hunt

Before Class

Listen to Season 1, Episode 4 of The Animal Behavior Podcast, in which Amy speak with Ted Stankowich whose research focuses on the topic of mammal weaponry and aposematic coloration.

Whilst listening write some notes about which behavioral and physiological defense mechanisms different animals may use to protect themselves from predator. Pay special attention to why different animals use different mechanisms. The episode has some big hints for the scavenger hunt so it should be a breeze!

During Class

Look through the specimens and find and answer the questions on the following two pages.



- 1
 - a. Find two examples of animals that you expect to use specialized refuge as a defensive behavior and record the specimen numbers.
 - b. What do these two species have in common that might mean they are using specialized refuge as a defense?

- 2
 - a. What is aposematism?
 - b. Find two examples of animals that you expect to use aposematism as a defensive behavior and record the specimen numbers.
 - c. What do these two species have in common that might mean they are using aposematism as a defense?

- 3
 - a. Find two examples of animals that you expect to use crypsis as a defensive behavior and record the specimen numbers.
 - b. What do these two species have in common that might mean they are using crypsis as a defense?

- 4
 - a. Find two examples of animals that you expect to use rapid escape as a defensive behavior and record the specimen numbers.
 - b. What do these two species have in common that might mean they are using rapid escape as a defense?

- 5
 - a. Find one example of an animal that you expect to use spines or quills as a defensive behavior and record the specimen number.
 - b. Why might this species have developed this specific mechanisms?

- 6
 - a. Find one example of an animal that you expect to use armor as a defensive behavior and record the specimen number.
 - b. Why might this species have developed this specific mechanisms?

- 7
 - a. When can horns or antlers be considered a defensive trait?



- b. With the previous question in mind, find one example of an animal that you expect to use horns as a defense (it could be a sex specific trait too) and record the specimen number.
 - c. Why might this species (/sex) have developed this specific mechanisms?
- 8
- a. Why might some species not have any obvious defenses against predation?

