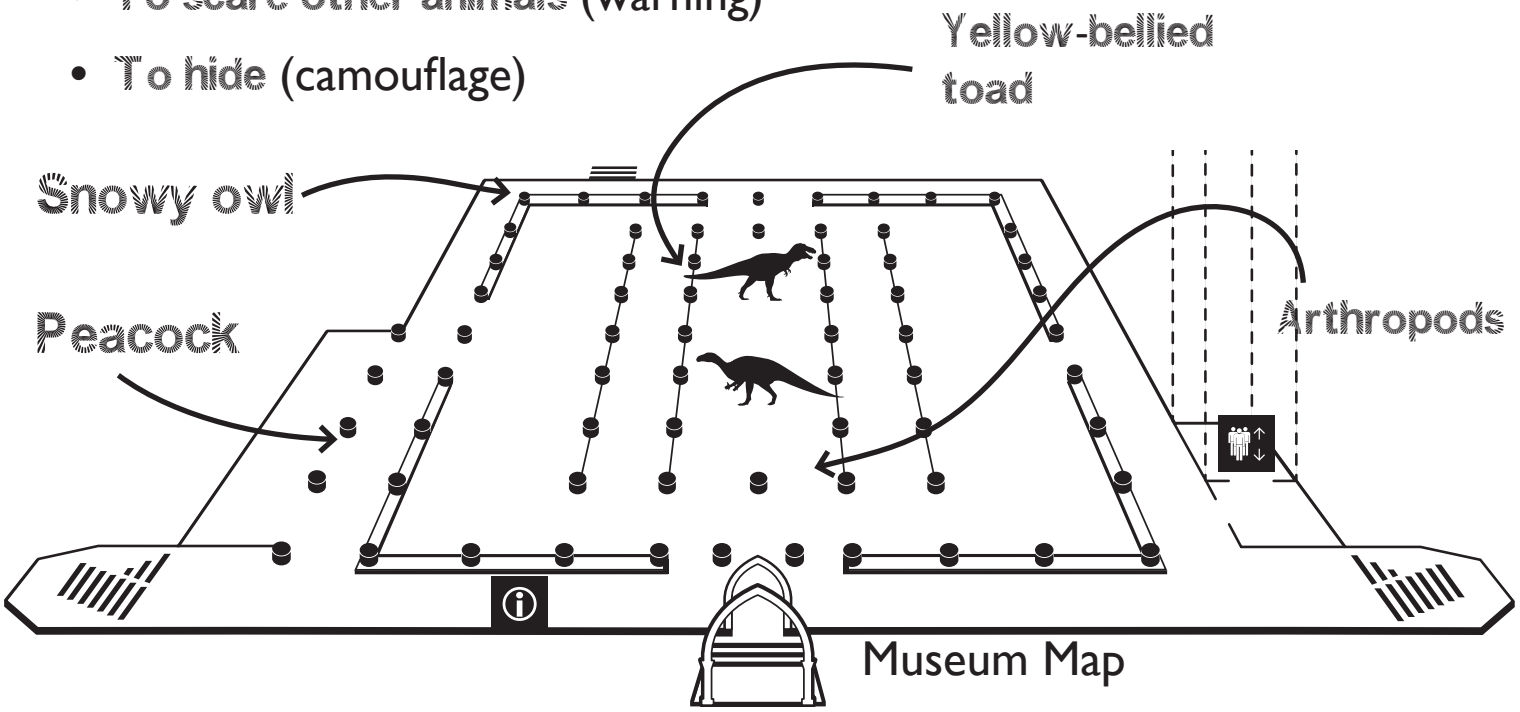
Creature Colours

Museum of Natural History

Animals use colour for three main reasons:

- **To show off** (display)
- **To scare other animals** (warning)
- **To hide** (camouflage)



Museum Map

Display

Peacock

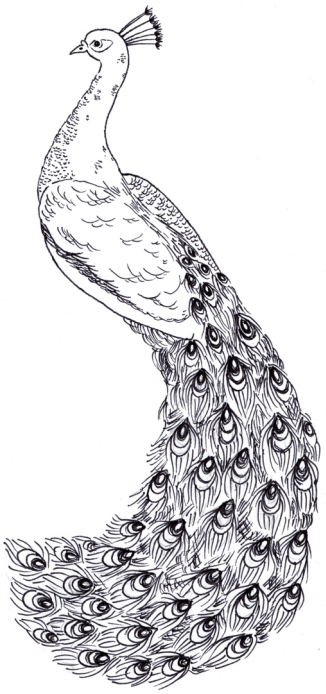
The ultimate show off!

Male peafowl are called peacocks. Females are called peahens.
Males have spectacular tail feathers that they use to attract the attention of females.
They lift them up and fan them out to show how beautiful they are.

How many different colours can you see in our pretty peacock's plumage?

Now find another example in the Museum of an animal that uses colour for display.

Name of animal:

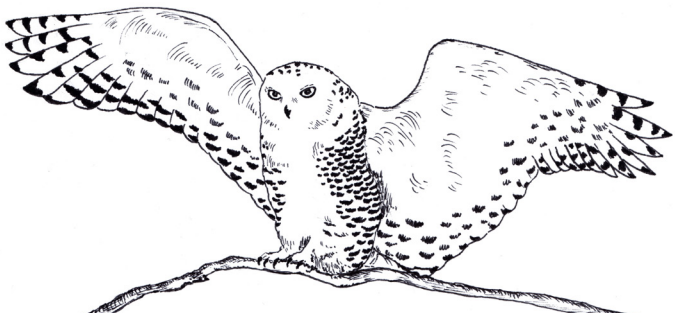


Camouflage

Snowy owl

White as snow

These large owls mainly live in the Arctic, in open, treeless areas called tundra.



Their white feathers help them to blend perfectly into their snowy habitat. They then use their excellent eyesight to see prey such as small rodent like lemmings. The snowy owl can attack before their prey even sees them coming!

Now find another example in the Museum of an animal that uses camouflage.

Name of animal:

Warning

Yellow-bellied toad

Flash-tastic!

Yellow, red and black are warning colours - they tell other animals to stay away and that they could be in danger.

This little toad uses ***flash colour*** to scare away predators. If it feels threatened, it lifts its front legs in the air to show off its brightly coloured belly.

Look underneath to see its bright colours.

Now find another example in the Museum of an animal that uses warning colours.

Name of animal:

Final Colour Challenge

Arthropods

Look in the ***Life As We Know It*** display case**.** Here you will see a range of arthropods. Arthropods are animals that have their skeleton on the outside of their body (exoskeleton).

Find 3 arthropods that use colour in different ways:

For Camouflage ☐ For Warning ☐ For Display ☐