

## **Learning Laguna Field Activity: Eye Spy Trail**

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**Goal:** To focus students' attention, hone observation and memory skills. To introduce the concepts of adaptation and camouflage.

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**Set Up:** Place a blue box at each end of this activity to indicate the beginning and end of activity area. A list of items should be left in both boxes. Place items in order, according to list, on either side of the trail, not hidden.

**Activity:** Instruct students that they will walk one at a time quietly on the trail looking for things that we have put there. Encourage the students to be detectives. Some of the things belong out here in the wetlands and some of the things do not. Keep track of what you see and note what items are easy to see and what are not. After they have all walked the trail, ask:

- Name one thing that you saw that stood out: it was easy to see.
- Name one thing that was hidden: what do we call it when something blends into its surroundings and is difficult to see? (camouflage).
- Why is camouflage important? It is an adaptation that protects prey from being readily seen by a potential predator, and allows predators to be more secretive and thus more successful at hunting.
- What did you see that doesn't belong along the Laguna? Man-made stuff (plastic fork, etc.) and seashell (that belongs at the ocean!). Talk about the plastic 6-pack holder and how we wouldn't want to leave it on the trail because it can be harmful to wildlife.
- If you were an insect and lived here, what color would you want to be? Why?
- Why is the wasp brightly colored with yellow and black? Is it camouflaged?
  - It is an adaptation that warns potential predators that they might get stung!
  - Can you think of other animals that have that kind of warning coloration? Skunk (must spray); monarch butterfly (poisonous when eaten).