

## 5 Types of Camouflage

1. **Background coloration:** animal is colored to blend in with the environment
  - This owl blends in with the tree, making it harder to spot.



2. **Countershading:** contrasting colors on opposite sides of the animal's body, depending on who views it from above or below
  - Sharks are darker on the top and lighter on the bottom. This way, when you look at a shark from the top, light will shine on it, and now the shark matches the dark background.



3. **Patterns:** Spots and stripes on an animal make it more confusing to see to predators
- A cheetah's spots are important in camouflaging. The spots make it harder for another animal to see the outline of the animal, making it more confusing.



4. **Mimicry:** animal has traits that look like other, more dangerous animals
- Some butterflies have evolved to mimic the wing patterns of other, more poisonous butterflies. When an animal eats a poisonous butterfly, it remembers and knows not to eat that butterfly again.
  - The butterfly on the left is a monarch butterfly. It doesn't taste great.
  - The butterfly on the right is a viceroy butterfly. It tastes good to other animals. Because it looks like a monarch, other animals won't eat it.
  - Look closely at the butterflies and see the differences in the locations of the white spots.



5. **Dynamic:** animals that change their color

- One type of octopus changes color based on its surroundings. [Here](#) is a video of it changing color.

