

Weekly Theme: Nature's Spies

Marketing Description: Learn how nature's super spies use daring acrobatics, sneaky stealth, and tricky disguises to deceive. Crack the secret codes of animal communication and engineer a machine to deliver your secret message. See how animals use super senses to see, hear, and sniff out their targets. Once you've studied nature's spies, practice your own super spy skills in this week full of deception, stealth, and intrigue.

Weekly Offerings:

Big Idea	Activity Name	Activity Description	Length of Activity	Outside ?	Caregiver Needed?
Observation and Disguise	Spy Observation Book	Campers will create an observation notebook to record their notes and observations for the week.	10 min	N	N
Observation and Disguise	Spy Identity and Disguise	Campers will create their spy cover story– a fake identity, backstory, and mission. They will also find supplies to create a disguise.	30 min	N	N
Observation and Disguise	Close Observation Rings	Campers will practice their observation skills using close observation rings.	20 min	Y	N
Observation and Disguise	Memory Box Challenge	Campers will practice their memory and observation skills by trying to recall as many objects in a box as they can.	10 min	N	Y
Observation and Disguise	Spy Power Obstacle Course	Campers will practice their spy skills by competing in an obstacle course.	15 min	Y	N
Observation and Disguise	Undercover Critter Hike	Campers will go for a hike, looking for plants and animals that use disguise or camouflage to hide themselves in their environment.	30 min	Y	Y
Observation and Disguise	Sneaky Animal Masks	Campers will make a mask that mimics an animal's markings or coloring which help them camouflage.	30 min	N	N
Communication	Writing Codes and Ciphers	Campers will create their own code/cipher key. They will write a message for another person to decode.	20 min	N	Y/N
Communication	Super Hero Brain Mapping	Campers will imagine a super hero and create a model of their brain, emphasizing the pathways needed to communicate.	15 min	N	N
Communication	Blind Fetch	Campers will practice their communication skills in this game.	20 min	Y/N	Y

Communication	Slingshot Rockets	Campers will create slingshot rockets to carry a secret message.	30 min	Y/N	Y
Communication	Bird Call Hike	Campers will listen for and try to identify bird calls.	30 min	Y	Y
Special Abilities	Decoder Glasses	Campers will create decoder glasses to read a secret message.	20 min	N	Y
Special Abilities	Imaginary Animal Collage	Campers will create an imaginary creature that compiles many different animal adaptations.	15 min	N	N
Special Abilities	Animal Races	Campers will model animal adaptations in a race.	15 min	Y	N
Special Abilities	Silent as an Owl	Campers will practice being stealthy in this silent, sneaky game.	15 min	N	Y
Special Abilities	Telephone/ Periscope Craft	Campers will build a device to help enhance their senses.	30 min	N	Y
Special Abilities	Field Stations/ Sensory Hike	Campers will practice using their senses as they take a hike.	30 min	Y	Y
Trickiness	Rock Painting Camouflage	Campers will paint rocks that camouflage into their environments.	20 min	Y	N
Trickiness	Biomimicry Invention	Campers will engineer an invention that takes inspiration from the natural world.	20 min	Y/N	N
Trickiness	Invisible Ink	Campers will use household ingredients to write a message using invisible ink.	15 min	N	Y
Trickiness	Camouflage Hide and Seek	Campers will practice their camouflage and observation skills in this game of hide and seek.	15 min	Y	Y
Trickiness	Warning System Hike	Campers will look for animal and plant warning systems on their hike.	30 min	Y	Y
Trickiness	Hidden Compartment Device	Campers will create an object that hides a message in an everyday object.	30 min	N	Y
Survival	Spider's Web/ Laser Maze	Campers will create a model of a spider's web that can be used as a pretend laser maze.	30 min	Y/N	N
Survival	Build a Habitat	Campers will build a small habitat suitable for a worm.	30 min	Y	N
Survival	Insulation Experiment	Campers will test different objects to see which materials create the best insulators.	20 min	N	N
Survival	Animal ID Headbands	Campers will recall and practice describing animal adaptations, abilities and survival skills.	20 min	N	Y

Survival	Scavenger Hunt Hike	Campers will practice using observation skills to find all of the objects they can on their hike.	30 min	Y	Y
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Material List:

- Included in Weekly Kit:
 - 1 piece of red cellophane or red acetate (8.5 x 11in is plenty)
 - 1 Yellow highlighter
 - 3 Wide-diameter straw (could be a smoothie straw or slightly smaller diameter – want the pencil eraser to fit snugly over the top)
 - 3 Pencil Erasers
 - 1 Jingle Bell
 - 2 small square mirrors (5cm x 5cm)
 - 6 Paper fastening brads
 - 6 Paper Cups (any size)
 - Cardstock paper
 - 3 Rubber bands (long if possible)
 - 8 Craft sticks
 - 1 Periscope template (printed)
 - Other resource documents (printed)
 - 5 paper clips
 - White printer paper (copy or lined)
- Need But Not Provided:
 - 4-8 Cardboard tubes (toilet paper or paper towel rolls)
 - ¼ cup Lemon juice
 - ¼ cup Grape juice
 - 1 Red ball point pen
 - 2-3 sheets lightweight cardboard (like an old cereal box)
 - 1 Stapler with staples
 - 1 Small marshmallow/pom pom
 - 1 Small box
 - 1 Blue crayon, white crayon

- Ability to download a free app on a phone or other device (optional)
- 1 Q-tip (optional)
- From Art Starter Kit:
 - Crayons
 - Colored pencils
 - Yarn
 - Watercolor paints
 - Paint brushes
 - Glue sticks
 - Liquid glue
 - Scissors
 - Felt
 - Primary color liquid paint
 - Paint cups
 - Paint palette
 - Ruler
 - Tape
- From Science Starter Kit
 - Magnifying glass (optional, but helpful!)
 - Timer
 - Tweezers
 - Binoculars (optional, but helpful!)
 - Ruler
 - Portable microscope (optional, but helpful!)

Notes:

- All hikes were listed with caregiver assistance, though it is up to the caregiver if the camper takes a true “hike” or just explores their own nearby outdoor space.
- Memory Box Challenge, Writing Codes and Ciphers, Blind Fetch, Camouflage Hide and Seek, and Animal ID Headbands all require an additional person to participate, though not necessarily a caregiver.

- Decoder Glasses, Silent as an Owl, Slingshot Rockets, Telescope/Periscope Craft, and Hidden Compartment Device will likely take adult supervision. Depending on the recipe chosen, adult supervision may be required for Invisible Ink.
- Super Hero Brain Mapping and Spider's Web/Laser Maze will require some set up in a large area where you can set up several chairs, tables, or other objects that you can wrap string around. Alternatively, an outdoor area with several trees that are fairly close to each other will also work.
- There are several activities that can be done without, but may be easier using a hot glue gun or X-acto knife, which would require adult supervision.