

Doppelgangers

Mimicry



What is mimicry?

Mimicry is when one species looks like another to gain a survival advantage.

In Batesian mimicry a harmless species looks like a lethal species.

In Mullerian mimicry 2 or more harmful species evolve to look like each other to fool common predators.

Camouflage is considered a related form of mimicry—for example the Southern bolas spider looks like bird poop!





Insects are particularly skilled mimics!



Looks like a
hornet?

Hornet clearwing moth
Eastern hornet fly



Looks like a bee?

Bee fly

Common drone fly



Looks like a
wasp?

Grape root borer moth

Texas wasp moth

Brown wasp mantidfly

Clubbed mydas fly



Looks like an
ant?

Texas bow-legged bug

Velvet ant



Looks like a
bumble bee?

Robber fly

Strawberry chewing moth

Aposematism is the use of colors to warn that a living thing may be venomous, poisonous or otherwise dangerous.

Milk snakes and coral snakes are an example of aposematic mimicry.



To Have You Ever Seen a Lassie

Have you ever seen a robber fly, a robber fly, a robber fly?

Have you ever seen a robber fly

Look just like bee? (pointing to head with puzzled expression)

With stripes on its back

Both yellow and black? (fingers crossing chest for stripes)

Have you ever seen a robber fly

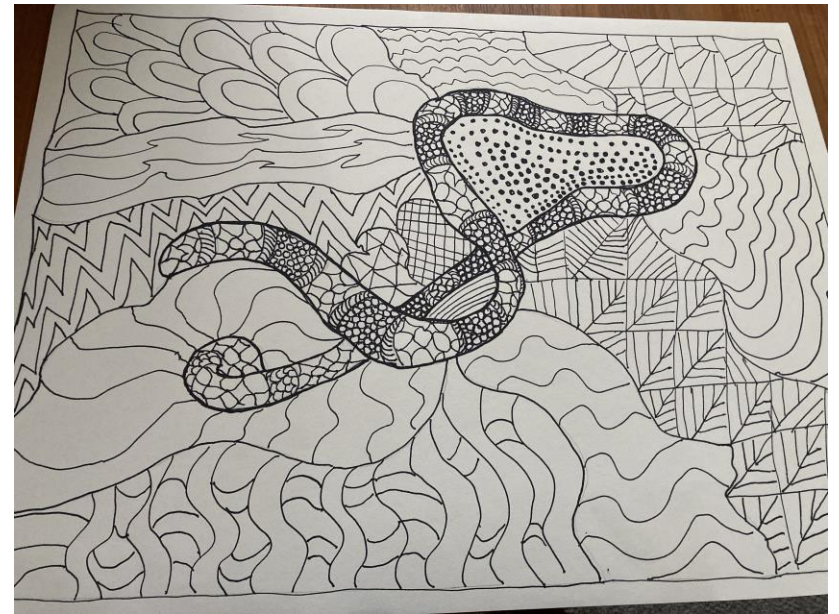
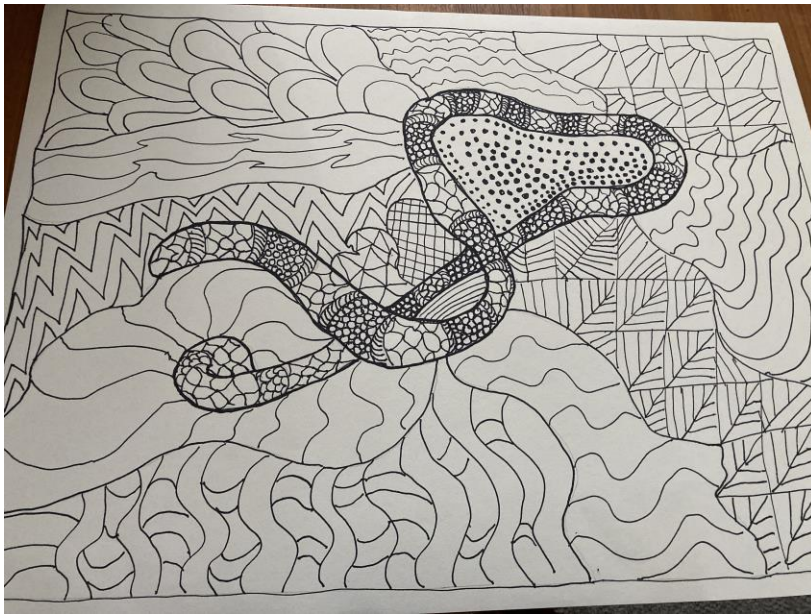
Look just like a bee? (pointing to head with puzzled expression)



As you walk, can you find any examples of insects mimicking each other?

Can you make coral snake and milk snake treats using red, yellow, black and white frosting tubes?

Can you color the snakes to match the coral and milk?



Living things'
tricks

