

For Teachers and Parents:

In nature, being able to hide can be a good defense mechanism. The distinctive reddish-brown and black coloring, with white and black patterned markings, of a Red Panda's fur helps them blend into the reddish-brown moss and white lichen growing on the tree branches where they live. Their colorful coats help the shy Red Pandas hide from Snow Leopards and Martens. The strategy of disguising oneself in order to blend into natural surroundings is called camouflage.

Glossary of Terms:

distinct / distinctive - recognizable

pattern / patterned - a set of markings that repeats

moss - a tiny shade-loving plant that grows in small clumps on rocks, trees, and the ground

lichen - a living thing that grows on rocks, trees and the ground in small flat clusters

camouflage - a way of hiding by matching and blending in with one's surroundings

Activity:

Have students use markers, colored pencils, or crayons to help the Red Panda blend into its red, brown, and white surroundings.

Name

