Texas Maritime Museum
Mission Impossible Nature Challenge 2014

The Texas Maritime Museum has been educating visitors about the rich maritime history of Texas for 25 years! Enjoy Texas history focusing on exploration and settlement, boatbuilding and shipbuilding, the search for offshore oil and gas, and sports and commercial fishing.

Ever go to the zoo or aquarium, take a look around, and then wonder where the animals are? In nature different species use a defensive tactic known as cryptic coloration or camouflage to protect themselves from predators. Their camouflage depends on many factors including type of species, season, predators, and behavior. How does this relate to naval history you ask? Before World War I ships were painted primarily solid white, black or grey, but during this war a new concept was developed – defensive painting of the vessels to hide them in plain sight. True camouflage to mimic all ocean backgrounds is impossible due to way too many variations in weather and geographical locations, but confusing the size, speed and shape of the ships was entirely possible. Designers looked around themselves and then combined nature and brand new abstract art techniques to create painting schemes so effective less than 1% of ‘camouflaged’ ships were torpedoed and destroyed.

Your Mission is to visit the Texas Maritime Museum and:

1. Locate the camouflage information panel in the Museum and use what you learn to fill in the blanks below.

2. Follow the instructions on the panel next to the camouflage information panel and use the crayons and navy ship page provided to ‘Razzle Dazzle’ camouflage your ship.

3. Go to the outdoor exhibits area where there are 3 boxes hidden in plain sight using the 3 main types of camouflage. Find each of them and take one prize from each of the containers. Make sure you replace the containers where you found them for the next challenger.

Mission Site:
The Official Texas Maritime Museum

Location:
1202 Navigation Cr.
Rockport, TX 78382

Latitude 28° 1’ 40” N
Longitude 97° 3’ 30”

Appropriate Ages:
5+

Time to Complete:
Minimum 45 min.

Admission:
10:00 am to 4:00 pm Tuesday – Saturday
1:00 to 4:00 pm Sunday

Adult: $8.00
Senior (60+): $6.00
Child (3-12): $3.00

Contact 361-729-1271
1. Match the definitions with the name of each type of camouflage:

COUNTERSHADING
MIMICRY
DISRUPTIVE COLORATION

A. Which form of camouflage is described as **matching or blending into the background** by color, form or movement to appear invisible such as a chameleon subtly changing color to match its environment?

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B. Which form of camouflage **disguises** the size or speed of something so it can be easily **misidentified** such as a butterfly’s wings resembling a larger animal’s eyes?

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C. Which form of camouflage is characterized by a color scheme where the **upper part is a darker shade than the lower part** such as the dark grey and white underbelly of a shark?

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Answers: (A) Mimicry, (B) Disruptive Coloration, (C) Countershading