

Name:

Date:

How Chameleons Change Color

Chameleons are famous for their amazing ability to change colour. However, they do not only change colour to hide from predators. A chameleon's skin contains special cells with tiny crystals inside them. By changing the space between these crystals, a chameleon can make its skin appear different colours. These changes can happen surprisingly quickly.



Chameleons use colour to communicate with each other. A male may display bright colours to attract a mate or warn another male to stay away. Darker colours can sometimes show that a chameleon is frightened or stressed. Temperature can also affect a chameleon's colour. Because chameleons are cold-blooded, they depend on their surroundings to control their body temperature. A chameleon may become darker when it is cold because darker colours absorb more heat from sunlight.

Of course, colour can sometimes help a chameleon blend into its surroundings too.

Changing colour is not simply a clever hiding trick. It helps chameleons communicate, control their temperature and sometimes stay hidden from danger.



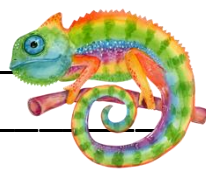
1. What is the passage mainly about?

2. What is found inside the special cells in a chameleon's skin?

3. Give two reasons why a chameleon might change colour.

4. Why might a chameleon become darker when it is cold?

5. How can changing colour help a chameleon stay safe?



Answers

1. The passage is mainly about why and how chameleons change colour.
2. Tiny crystals.
3. To communicate, control their body temperature, or hide from danger.
4. Darker colours absorb more heat from sunlight, helping the chameleon warm up.
5. It can help the chameleon blend into its surroundings and hide from predators.