

# BIOMIMICRY

One day in the 1940's, George de Mestral, a Swiss engineer, went out hunting with his dog in the mountains. On his return, he noticed the burrs that were stuck to his clothing and his dog's fur and wondered how they managed to be so sticky. It was from this observation of how burrs work that Mestral developed the idea for Velcro.

**Nature has had centuries to develop systems and solutions to address all sorts of issues, from the conservation of water in cacti to the dispersion of pollen through bees. How can nature serve as an inspiration to solving the driving question that students are investigating?**

## **DIRECTIONS:**

Have students think through and/or investigate the following questions:

- How does nature deal with the question that we are investigating?
- What in nature relates to the question that we are investigating?
- What inspiration can we draw from nature that can help us address our driving question?

Even if it seems like the driving question that you are investigating has nothing to do with nature, give this a strategy a try - you may be surprised by the results!

