



Can you think of ways technology  
imitates animals?



# Can you think of ways technology imitates nature? The idea is referred to as biomimicry.



- \*\* Scientists are using mosquitoes' biting ability to make needles less painful for humans.
- \*\* Fireflies have inspired the design of more energy efficient LED bulbs.
- \*\* Helicopters are now being designed mimicking hummingbirds, flying backwards and hovering in place.
- \*\* Artic Cod have evolved a mechanism to live in icy waters without freezing. This helped researchers create a new polymer to preserve blood and prevent its freezing.
- \*\* Scientists have mimicked otter fur to create something similar to an otter wetsuit so humans can keep warm and dry in the water.
- \*\* Plant burrs motivated the idea of Velcro, which combines tough cotton and nylon to attach or "hook" cloth with "loops." Look closely at the two pieces of a sample of Velcro.
- \*\* An elephant has 40,000 muscles, yet no bones in its trunk. Scientists have mimicked the structure to develop a biotic arm to help handicapped persons with heavy lifting.