

## Lesson 7

*We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors; we borrow it from our children.*

— Navajo proverb

# Why Biomimicry?



### Take a Moment to Think

1. What can animals and insects do that people cannot?
2. Do you believe that human beings are causing climate change?
3. *Bio* means “life” and *mimicry* means “imitation.” What is “biomimicry”?

**biomimicry** [bəiəˈmɪmɪkri]   **damage** [dæmɪdʒ]   **Janine Benyus** [dʒəˈniːn bɛnjəs]   **conform** [kənˈfɔːrm]  
**accomplish** [əkəmˈplɪʃ]   **pesticide** [ˈpɛstɪsaɪd]   **institution** [ɪnˈstɪtjuːʃən]   **exist** [ɪgzɪst]  
**harmful** [hɑːrmlfəl]   **poison** [ˈpɔɪzən]   **soil** [sɔɪl]   **CO<sub>2</sub>** [siː ɔː tuː]   **sustainable** [səstəɪnəbl]



Science and technology have given us a comfortable life. But sometimes our technology damages the natural world. Janine Benyus, a science writer, suggests a way to make our technology conform to nature: "biomimicry."

## 1

5 No other living thing on earth has accomplished more than human beings. We have created many useful things such as airplanes, trains, computers, cell phones, medicines and pesticides, as well as institutions such as schools,  
10 universities, hospitals and banks. Without them, the modern world would not exist.

No other living thing ~

These things let us travel far and wide, gather information quickly, educate ourselves, and treat diseases. However, things we have created can be  
15 harmful. Pesticides kill insects but can poison the soil. We need cars, but CO<sub>2</sub> may be one of the main causes of global warming.

far and wide

Now the question we must ask is: If we were to live in harmony with nature, could we maintain  
20 our comfortable way of living? In other words, how is it possible for us to live a sustainable life?

in other words

TF

5. **No other living thing** ~ cf. No other soccer team is more famous than Nadeshiko.

12. **far and wide** ≙ everywhere    20. **in other words** ≙ that is (to say), to put it another way

G-2 **Without music**, life would be boring.

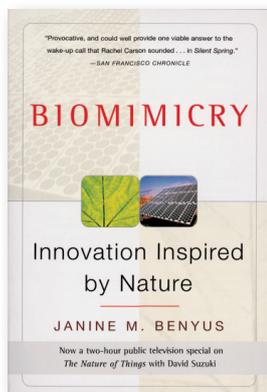
G-3 **If we were to** miss the examination, we would be in real trouble.

Q1 What are some of the useful things that humans have created?

Q2 What question does Benyus say we must ask ourselves?

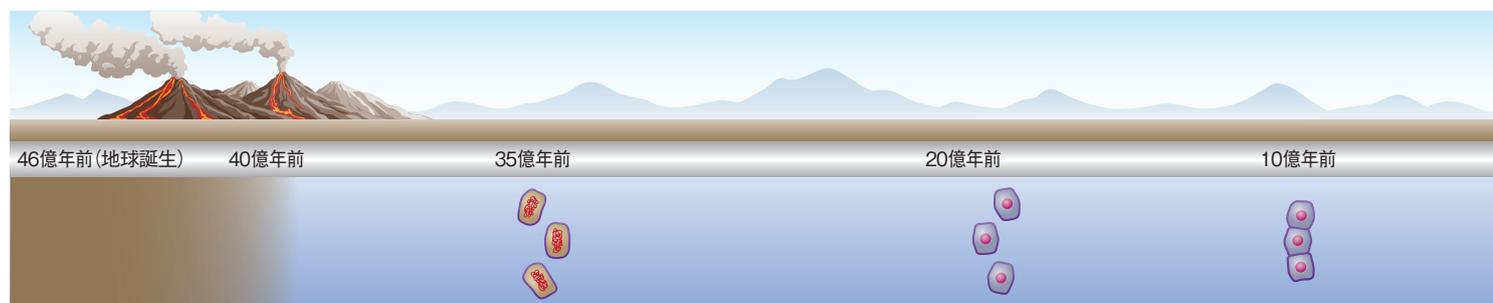


2



look to ~ for ...  
*bio, mimesis*  
after all

Janine Benyus suggests that the answer to this question may be found by looking to nature for inspiration. The word “biomimicry” comes from *bio*, meaning “life,” and *mimesis*, meaning “imitation.” She says that by imitating nature, we should be able to find a way to live in a nature-friendly way. After all, nature has been able to sustain a life-supporting environment for 3.8 billion years. But now that environment is threatened. We humans must learn how to sustain our environment, by observing and trying to find inspiration from nature. Nature in Benyus’s mind



**imitation** [imitéiʃən]    **imitate** [ímitèit]    **supporting** [səpɔ:ʔtiŋ]    **threaten** [θrétŋ]

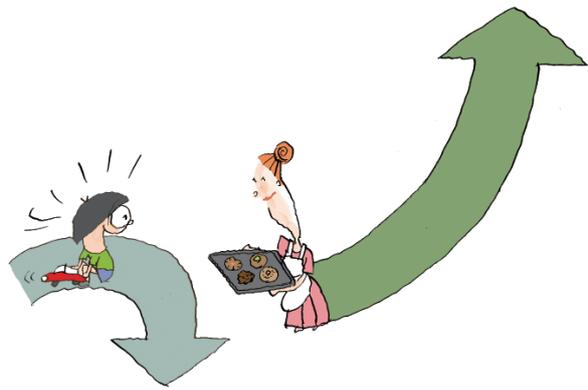
**2. look to ~ for ...** He looks to you for support. cf. depend on ~ for ...

**4. bio, mimesis** bio [báiou], mimesis [mimí:sis] は、ともにラテン語。

**7. after all** Don't expect him to speak English well. After all, he just started learning two weeks ago.

**Q3** What does Benyus say we must do to live in a nature-friendly way?

**Q4** What should we take as our teacher and model?



## イントネーション

英語では、文中で強勢を置かれる語を中心にして、イントネーション（音の抑揚）の変化が現れます。平叙文や命令文では下降イントネーションが使われ、Yes-No 疑問文では上昇イントネーションが使われます。疑問詞を伴う疑問文ではふつう下降イントネーションが使われますが、上昇イントネーションが使われることもあります。

ここでは、平叙文と疑問文を取り上げます。文末のイントネーションを表わす矢印に注意して、音読してみましょう。

- (1) Nature is our model. (↘)
- (2) Will it fit in? (↗)
- (3) Is there a model for this in nature? (↗)
- (4) What will it cost the earth and future generations? (↘)
- (5) How about dragonflies, which move more quickly than our best airplanes? (↘)

🟢 イントネーションの違いによって、意味（ニュアンス）がどのように異なるのかを考えてみましょう。

- (1) a. What can I get you today, sir? (↗)  
b. What can I get you today, sir? (↘)
- (2) a. You're not from around here, are you? (↗)  
b. You're not from around here, are you? (↘)

## 音読練習

イントネーションに注意しながら、第7課で取り上げたベニユスさんの立場に立って、次の文章を音読しましょう。

- (1) Now the question we must ask is: If we were to live in harmony with nature, could we maintain our comfortable way of living? In other words, how is it possible for us to live a sustainable life?
- (2) Benyus believes that biomimicry is not only a new way of looking at nature but also a key to our survival on planet Earth. It is our home, but it is not ours alone.