

Earthlings
Biomimicry

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Level: Greener

Reflection:

Social Networking Aids Housing Search



“For hermit crabs, finding a shell is not an easy process. Unlike snails and mussels, hermit crabs cannot grow their own shell, and must therefore search periodically for empty snail shells to switch into as they grow.

Smaller hermit crabs line up behind the initial shell finder, in descending size order, waiting for the shells to be vacated, while the initial finder stops searching and instead waits for a larger hermit crab to switch into the new shell. In this way, shells are efficiently passed from individual to individual.”

Ref: <https://asknature.org/strategy/social-networking-aids-housing-search/>

Which aspects of the strategy or system are most compelling?

The most compelling aspect was the way that animals have found a way to be more effective with their time and energy, something most humans have not. These crabs work together to sustain their species by providing for others while also benefiting from that same system. I think that is something very compelling

and strategic since it shows how it's not so independent, and they're looking out for each other, something I feel that we lack.

How has your perspective of nature changed?

We take inspiration from nature into our own lives because nothing is stronger than the thing that sustains us and allows us to exist. Nature has always been seen as a positive thing and has very complex ways of working. I always viewed nature on a more scientific scale, thinking of chemistry and biology when it came to greenhouse gases and global warming, but this challenge allowed me to expand my knowledge of what nature actually has to provide. Nature now also has cultural benefits like architecture, engineering, technology, which we saw with biomimicry. This is just another benefit of nature being added to the list, and it's another example of why it's so important to take care of our ecosystems.

How can these systems from biomimicry be applied to your own life, campus or community?

This system of biomimicry can be applied to my own life as a way of helping each other to find the perfect "home". Especially in this age, there is a big emphasis on the competitive culture and trying to always be the best and win as many things as possible. Don't get me wrong, there's nothing wrong with a little competition, but students have been pitted against each other, creating unnecessary stress and pressure. It's really important to start acknowledging that we're all one community, and we should all be looking out for each other's interests as much as possible to be able to reach unity and to be able to find a home where everyone belongs and fits in.

