

Nature Did It First

Many inventions that we think of as human ideas, actually came from nature. In the space by the invention, put the letter of the item from nature that inspired it.



Zipper _____



Armored Car _____



Bike Helmet _____



Velcro _____



Jet Engine _____



Snowshoes _____



A. Woodpecker



B. Hare



C. Feather



D. Turtle



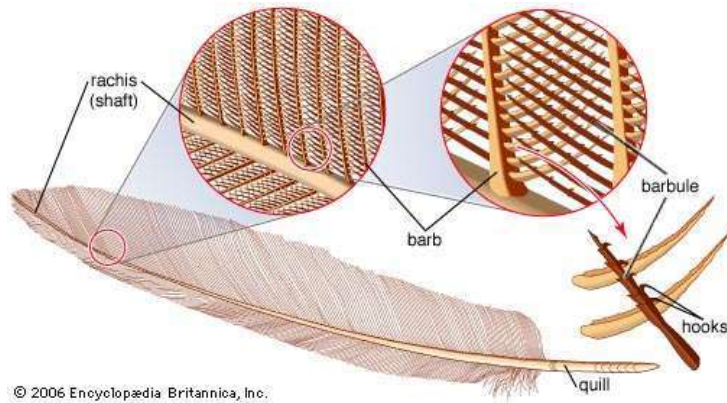
E. Squid



F. Burdock

Answers

Zipper C The vanes of a feather tend to come “unzipped” during use. When birds preen, part of what they are doing is “zipping” the vanes back together. If you find a feather or use a craft feather, try it yourself



Armored Car D Turtles are well protected inside their shells, just like people inside an armored car.

Bike Helmet A Woodpeckers have built-in protection against repeatedly pounding their heads against wood. They have a layer of spongy cartilage that helps as a shock absorber. Most bike helmets have a layer that acts as a shock absorber.

Velcro F The seed cases of the burdock plant are covered with “hooks” that hold onto your clothing or the fur of an animal when walking through it. This is how the seeds are transported to new locations. When you find them stuck to you, you pull them off and throw them on the ground in a new location.

Jet Engine E Squid move through water using jet propulsion. They take in water and push it out forcefully to move quickly. A jet engine takes in air at one end and forces the air out the other end. Try this experiment to see how squid move. <https://littlebinsforlittlehands.com/how-do-squid-swim/> *When I tried this at home, it does happen fast. A tub before bath time where there is a bigger area might work better than a sink.

Snowshoes B The idea for snowshoes came from people watching the way snowshoe hares were able to travel across deep snow without sinking in. The extra large feet on the hare helped to distribute the hare’s weight evenly over the snow.

Can you think of any other inventions that came from nature?