



## Who we are.

We are a collective of curriculum designers, biomimics, naturalists, and designers who work together to create projects that (re)connect us with nature and help us to (re)think the way we design and the choices we make.

## A passion for education.

We believe that the next generation of scientists and citizens should be prepared to address the needs of a changing world. And we believe that transformative change for human societies will only come by being more closely connected to and learning from the natural world. Our naturally inspired, STEM and NextGen Science Standard compliant classes provide children ages kindergarten through 8th grade the opportunity to explore patterns we find in nature and offer experiences that help them learn from natural systems to design and make more sustainable decisions.

## Where our classes are offered.

We offer outdoor experiential courses April through October through a variety of venues in the Chicago and St. Louis regions, from schools to park districts. We also offer teacher trainings. Contact us if you are interested in hosting one class or a series!



The B-Collaborative

[www.b-collaborative.com](http://www.b-collaborative.com)

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# Inspired by Nature!

Helping children learn from nature's patterns to create sustainable, locally-attuned, and resilient designs.



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*“In the end, we will conserve  
what we love.*

*We will love only what we  
understand.*

*We will understand only what  
we are taught.”*

- Baba Dioum, African Ecologist, 1968

Age Group			Resource Efficiency	Think Globally, Act Locally		Naturally Resilient	
Grades K-2	FORM TRACK	Class A1	<b>Clothing Inspired by Nature.</b> How does nature stay warm? Keep cool? Look pretty? Explore environmentally friendly ways of making things we use every day.	Class A2	<b>Perfect for this Place.</b> Why does a rabbit have different ears in the desert than in the forest? Explore animal adaptations and think of ways that YOU can fit in with where you live!	Class A3	<b>Why does a Tree Bend?</b> Trees are resilient creatures! But have you ever thought about why is it important for trees to be flexible? Explore resilient forms in nature and in your own life!
	SYSTEMS TRACK	Class B1	<b>A Nature Walk Among the Trees.</b> Trees give us shade to stay cool, air to breathe, and exercise when we climb them. How we can learn from trees to multi-task?	Class B2	<b>Better with Friends!</b> Did you know that bees and flowers are friends? They cooperate and are able to do together what they could never do alone. Explore cooperation in nature and in your world.	Class B3	<b>It's Great to be Different!</b> Just as every person is different, everything alive is also not the same! In fact, these differences are so important for our survival! Explore biodiversity outdoors and in your life.
Grades 3-5	FORM TRACK	Class C1	<b>Nature's Architects: From Bones to Buildings.</b> Honeycombs and bird bones are two examples of strong, resilient forms made with little material! See and touch nature's forms and be inspired to design your own dream playhouse!	Class C2	<b>Hitching a Ride on Animal Fur.</b> The burdock plant spreads its seeds by hooking on to animal fur and letting the animal carry it away - no energy needed! Are there any other forms in nature we can mimic to save energy in our own lives? Explore and find out!	Class C3	<b>Essential Mistakes.</b> Explore the biodiversity of earth's creatures and learn how this is essential to the resilience of life on earth. Learn how so many forms of plants and animals look like they do because of mistakes!
	SYSTEMS TRACK	Class D1	<b>"Waste" is Really Food!</b> In nature, there is no such thing as waste! See how plants and fish can get everything they need by living together and make your own closed-loop hydroponic system.	Class D2	<b>Finding our Food.</b> We may go to the grocery store, but animals that live outside must gather all the food they need and store it for winter. Learn their secrets and start to think of ways you can learn from them to eat healthy food.	Class D3	<b>Resilient Ecosystems.</b> How does an ecosystem rebuild after a big storm? What patterns do natural systems follow that allow them to be resilient? Learn their secrets and apply what you learn to your own home!
Grades 6-8	FORM TRACK	Class E1	<b>Water is a Resource!</b> Too often, we take water for granted that it will always be available, but many times it is not. Discover nature's strategies to capture and store water now so it is available when they need it and create your own invention!	Class E2	<b>Local Materials.</b> Birds build their nests using materials they find outside, from twigs to bits of string. Learn from animal architects and design your own shelter using found materials. What will it look like?	Class E3	<b>Bouncing Back!</b> What does a resilient form look and act like in nature? And what would our buildings look like if we emulated them? Be an architect and explore resilient forms in nature and use that inspiration to dream of cities of the future!
	SYSTEMS TRACK	Class F1	<b>Nature's Energy Strategies.</b> How does nature harness, store, and transmit energy? And how does this compare to how we do the same? Compare and contrast nature's energy strategies with ours and discover the next great energy invention!	Class F2	<b>Systems Thinking.</b> The world is made of systems: from your body to the earth itself. What are systems and how can understanding interactions between parts of a system help us understand the world and our place in it?	Class F3	<b>Flocks and Swarms.</b> Birds and bees work together to do many things, from finding food to defending themselves! Find out how we can learn from swarm intelligence to work together for more integrated, resilient businesses and communities!

Each class is approximately 2-hours long and can be offered individually or as a series. Each includes outdoor discovery with a biomimic and a creative activity to apply what they learn. Our curriculum is loosely based on Biomimicry's Life's Principles, as developed by Biomimicry3.8, and are aligned with the grade band expectations of the Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS), the Engineering, Technology, and Applications of Science (ETS), as well as expectations of Science, Technology, Engineering, & Math (STEM) goals. Each workshop is designed to maximize learning utilizing brain based and best practice instructional strategies.

**Please contact [biomimicry@b-collaborative.com](mailto:biomimicry@b-collaborative.com) for more information.**