

FUNCTION QUIZ

Test your understanding of function and related biomimicry concepts by taking this self quiz. An answer key is provided on the next page.

1. Define function:

2. Define strategy:

3. Why is function important in biomimicry?

4. What role does function play in AskNature?

5. What is the difference between an adaptation and a design?

6. What do adaptations and designs have in common?

7. What is the most important question to ask when beginning work on a biomimicry design challenge?

8. Define context:

9. Why is it important to consider context when looking for strategies?

Function Quiz Answer Key

1. Function is the purpose or activity of a characteristic, mechanism, or process; what an adaptation does for an organism or what a design does for its users.
2. A strategy is a characteristic, mechanism, or process; "how" a function is accomplished.
3. Function is one thing biology and design have in common; understanding function will help you find biological strategies relevant to your design challenge.
4. The strategies on AskNature are organized by function.
5. Adaptations are biological strategies resulting from evolution that contribute to the survival of an organism. Designs are made by humans to solve challenges or meet needs.
6. Both adaptations and designs use strategies to solve problems, that is, to meet functions.
7. What function do I want to solve for, and in what conditions? (Not "What do I want to make," but rather "what do I want my design to do?")
8. The conditions in which a strategy developed and is used.
9. Strategies vary depending on the context. What works in one context might not work in another context.