

## Why Science Matters to Society

By Lexi Kenas

Science matters to the world around us because if we look closely, it can help us make inventions which can make life better in many ways. Some inventions help us in what we do every day and some help us take better care of our world.

One way my life is better is because of velcro. When I didn't know how to tie my shoes, it made life easier because I could still get my shoes on. This invention came when a man saw burrs sticking to his dog when they were hunting. His name is George de Mestral. When he noticed the burrs on his dog, he looked under a microscope and saw tiny hooks that made it stick. Because he observed his world and did experiments, our lives got easier. Even my mom uses velcro in crafts.

Scientists noticed how a worm had hooks that swelled up when they got wet under a person's skin. If a person gets burned and they need to take skin from another place, doctors use the idea of the worm's hooks to help the skin grow in it's new place. Porcupine quills have inspired scientists to make staples that are used on patients so the staples go in easily, but do not come out easily.

I have learned a lot by looking in nature, reading, school, and watching the Wild Kratts. The gecko has amazing things it does. It can walk on flat, smooth surfaces like glass. This is fun for us, but can also help spies and other people. The gecko also helped people come up with a special tape that doesn't leave sticky stuff behind when it comes off the wall.

Science can help society by improving how we do things. Barnacles stick to boats and pile up on the sides, which makes the boat slower. It doesn't slide through the water as well. The shark has tooth-like scales that help it go through the water better and barnacles can't stick to it. Scientists are trying to figure out how we can do that. A Japanese engineer studied birds and found out that by studying birds, he could improve the bullet train. He designed the front of the bullet train like a King Fisher beak.

Nature is fun to look at, but it also helps us come up with inventions. I like looking at animals and their special features, and maybe someday I will invent something that will help people.