Top Tips for Success

The NatEnt Platform provides a step-by-step guide to biomimicry design. To ensure you get the most out of the platform, these top tips will help you.

1. **Ask Teams to log onto the Platform early**: get Teams used to the platform and guiding themselves right from the start.

2. **Keep a record of Team passwords**: tell Teams to make a record of their login details (take a photo or write them down).

3. **Print out Challenges in advance**: it's easier and quicker for Teams to select a Challenge if they have been printed; also, you can select Challenges which best match your learning objectives.

4. **Only one Data Entry Officer**: assign Team roles including one person to be the Data Entry Officer; this is important because only one person should enter data into the platform otherwise it might get over-written.

5. **Write clear Research Questions**: encourage Teams to use the sentence "How does nature…?" and select functions from the taxonomy worksheet.

6. **Describe Natural Strategies and Design Principles in detail**: the more detail Teams can include the better their understanding of how it works will be. Imagine describing these to an engineer or designer, what will they need to know to build your idea?

7. **Don't start designing solutions too early**: it is tempting to start planning a solution early, but patience and lots of research will lead to a better result. Encourage Teams to complete at least <u>six</u> species report cards before working on their Design Solution.

8. **All new solutions start with an idea**: encourage Teams to explore all ideas, not only focusing on what they think can be done now.

9. **Ask Teams to draw their Design Solution**: provide Teams with A3 paper and drawing equipment; suggest they make several drawings including overview and detailed views.