

# David Attenborough

Sir David Attenborough is a famous British wildlife film-maker. His TV shows have helped people learn lots about animals and their environments for over 60 years!

## His Early Life

Attenborough loved to collect fossils and stones when he was a little boy. He studied zoology at university so he could learn all about animals and their habitats.



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## Television

In 1952, many people did not have a TV but Attenborough got a job at the BBC. He started to make TV shows about animals.

The first TV show was called 'Animal Patterns'. He talked about the colours and patterns of many amazing animals.

In 1979, Attenborough made a show called 'Life on Earth'. It was very popular. Since then, he has written and presented many more shows. Lately, he made 'Blue Planet 2' which showed people how awful plastic pollution is for our world.

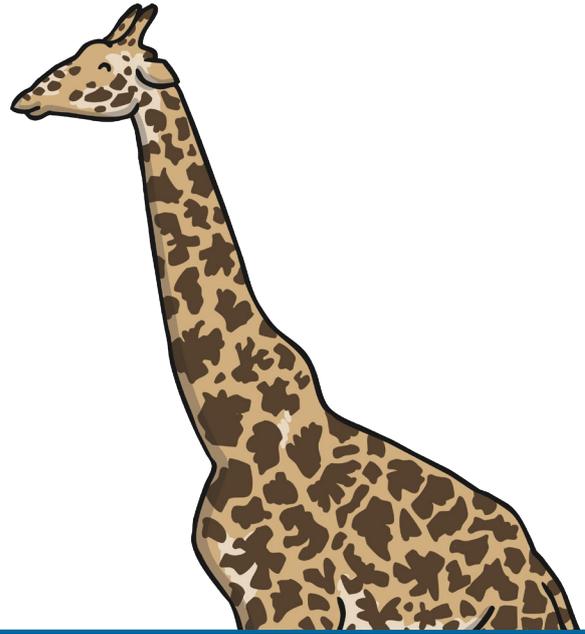
### Interesting Facts

**Date of Birth:** 8<sup>th</sup> May 1926

**Home:** London, England

### Career:

- He joined the BBC in 1952.
- He became Sir David Attenborough in 1985.



### Did You Know...?

- There is a ship called RRS Sir David Attenborough!
- He is the oldest person to have ever visited the North Pole!
- He became Sir David Attenborough in 1985.



# Questions

**1. Who is Sir David Attenborough? Tick one**

- a famous racing driver
- a famous actor
- a famous wildlife film-maker

**2. What did he collect when he was young? Tick one.**

- fossils and stones
- stones and shells
- animals and their habitats

**3. When did Sir David Attenborough start working at the BBC? Tick one.**

- in 1965
- in 2019
- in 1952

**4. What was the name of his first TV show? Tick one.**

- 'Amazing Animals'
- 'Animal Patterns'
- 'Life on Earth'

**5. What did people learn from watching 'Blue Planet 2'? Tick one.**

- They learnt about plastic pollution.
- They learnt about the patterns of many amazing animals.
- They learnt how to use a TV.

# Answers

1. Who is Sir David Attenborough? **Tick one**
  - a famous racing driver
  - a famous actor
  - a famous wildlife film-maker**
  
2. What did he collect when he was young? **Tick one.**
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  - They learnt about plastic pollution.**
  - They learnt about the patterns of many amazing animals.
  - They learnt how to use a TV.

# David Attenborough

Sir David Attenborough is a famous British wildlife film-maker. Over the past 60 years, he has written and presented many popular TV shows. These have helped people learn lots about animals, their behaviour and their habitats.

## His Early Life

Sir David Attenborough was born on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1926. He was the middle of three brothers. Richard was the oldest. He was an actor who appeared in many popular films.

When he was little, Attenborough loved to collect fossils and stones.

When he was 19 years old, he went to Cambridge University to study geology and zoology. He learnt lots about rocks, animals and the environment.



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## Television

In 1952, Attenborough started to work for television. At this time, lots of people did not own a TV. He did not even have a TV at home!

The first TV show he made was called 'Animal Patterns'. On the show, zookeepers brought real animals from London Zoo. Then, Attenborough talked about the colours of their coats. He also talked about their behaviour.

In 1979, Attenborough made a show called 'Life on Earth' which was very popular. It has been shown on TV across the world. Since then, he has written and presented many more programmes. In total, there were more than 250 episodes of 'Wildlife on One'! Lately, he has shown many people the dangers of plastic pollution to our world.

### Did You Know...?

Attenborough is said to be the most well-travelled person on the planet! When he made 'The Life of Birds', he travelled an impressive 256 thousand miles! This is equal to travelling around the world ten times!



# Questions

1. **When is Sir David Attenborough's birthday? Tick one**

6<sup>th</sup> July

8<sup>th</sup> May

10<sup>th</sup> June

2. **Look at the His Early Life section. Draw lines to match these sentences:**

The oldest brother...	•
As a child, he...	•
At 19 years old, he...	•

• loved to collect fossils and stones.
• was an actor in many films.
• started studying rocks, animals and the environment at university.

3. **What happened to Sir David Attenborough in 1952? Tick one.**

He studied geology and zoology.

He started working for television.

He made a show called 'Life on Earth'.

4. **Find and copy a word which means 'how an animal moves or acts'.**

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5. **How many episodes of 'Wildlife on One' did he make?**

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# Answers

1. When is Sir David Attenborough's birthday? **Tick one**

- 6<sup>th</sup> July
- 8<sup>th</sup> May**
- 10<sup>th</sup> June

2. Look at the **His Early Life** section. Draw lines to match these sentences:

The oldest brother...	loved to collect fossils and stones.
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At 19 years old, he...	started studying rocks, animals and the environment at university.

3. What happened to Sir David Attenborough in 1952? **Tick one.**

- He studied geology and zoology.
- He started working for television.**
- He made a show called 'Life on Earth'.

4. **Find** and **copy** a word which means 'how an animal moves or acts'.

**behaviour**

5. How many episodes of 'Wildlife on One' did he make?

**more than 250**

# David Attenborough

Sir David Attenborough is a world-famous British film-maker and naturalist. This means he is a scientist who studies animals and their behaviour. For over 60 years, he has written and presented many TV programmes to help viewers learn more about the natural world.

## His Early Life

Sir David Attenborough was born in London on 8<sup>th</sup> May 1926. This is the same year that Queen Elizabeth II was born! He was the middle of three brothers. His older brother, Richard, was an actor who appeared in many films.



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As a child, Attenborough loved to collect fossils, stones and other natural objects. At 11 years old, he collected and sold newts from a local pond to a university nearby. In 1945, when he was 19 years old, he went to Cambridge University to study geology and zoology. He learnt lots about rocks, animals and the environment.

## Television

In 1952, Attenborough started to work for television even though many people did not own a TV. In fact, he himself did not have a TV at home!

His first programme was called 'Animal Patterns'. On the show, zookeepers brought real animals from London Zoo into the studio.

Then, Attenborough talked to the viewers about their camouflage and behaviour.

One of his most famous documentaries was shown on TV in 1979. It was called 'Life on Earth', and it was a show which was well-loved and very successful. It has been shown on TV channels in many countries across the world. Since then, he has written and presented many more programmes. For example, over 250 episodes of 'Wildlife on One' were shown from 1977 to 2005 (28 years!). More recently, Attenborough has shown many people the dangers of plastic pollution to our environment.

### Did You Know...?

Sir David Attenborough has more than ten plants and animals that are named after him! One of these is a carnivorous plant called *Nepenthes attenboroughii* which feeds on animals such as rats!



# Questions

## 1. Who is Sir David Attenborough? Tick one

- He is a British racing driver.
- He is an actor who has appeared in many films.
- He is a popular and famous British film-maker and naturalist.

## 2. What did Sir David Attenborough enjoying doing as a child?

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## 3. Look at the His Early Life section. Write numbers from 1 to 4 to put the statements in the correct order.

Statement	Number
He went to university.	
He was born in London in 1926.	
He collected fossils, stones and other objects.	
He sold newts to a university.	

## 4. Look at the Television section. Find and copy a word which means what animals use to blend into their habitat so that they can hide.

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## 5. Look at the Did You Know...? section. Fill in the missing words.

Sir David Attenborough has \_\_\_\_\_ than ten plants and \_\_\_\_\_ that are named after \_\_\_\_\_!

**6. Do you think Sir David Attenborough was interested in nature and animals when he was little?**

Explain how you know.

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# Answers

1. Who is Sir David Attenborough? **Tick one**

- He is a British racing driver.
- He is an actor who has appeared in many films.
- He is a popular and famous British film-maker and naturalist.**

2. What did Sir David Attenborough enjoying doing as a child?

**He loved to collect fossils, stones and other natural objects.**

3. Look at the **His Early Life** section. Write numbers from 1 to 4 to put the statements in the correct order.

Statement	Number
He went to university.	<b>4</b>
He was born in London in 1926.	<b>1</b>
He collected fossils, stones and other objects.	<b>2</b>
He sold newts to a university.	<b>3</b>

4. Look at the **Television** section. **Find** and **copy** a word which means what animals use to blend into their habitat so that they can hide.

**camouflage**

5. Look at the **Did You Know...?** section. Fill in the missing words.

Sir David Attenborough has **more** than ten plants and **animals** that are named after **him**!

6. Do you think Sir David Attenborough was interested in nature and animals when he was little?

Explain how you know.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Yes, I think he was interested in nature and animals because when he was little he collected fossils and stones. Yes, I think he was interested in nature because he collected newts from a pond so he must like being in nature.**