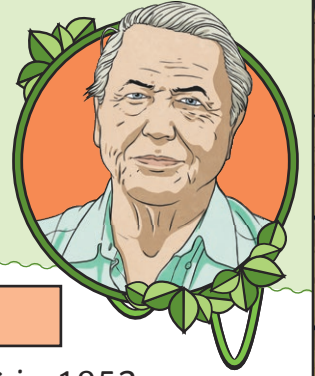


Sir David Attenborough

David Attenborough is a wildlife film-maker and **naturalist**. He has been making television programmes for over 60 years and many people believe him to be a national treasure.



Early Life

David Frederick Attenborough was born in London on 8th May 1926. His father was the head of a **university** in Leicester so David grew up living on the grounds of the university with his family. David lived with his parents and his two brothers called Richard and John.

Did You Know...?

David was born 17 days after Queen Elizabeth II.

David loved science and nature as a child and collected fossils, rocks and birds' eggs. He went to Cambridge University to learn more about nature after finishing school. David was then called to do two years of service in the Royal Navy in North Wales.

His Achievements

David has earned many awards throughout his career. He received his first knighthood from The Queen in 1985, which means he is now called 'Sir David Attenborough'. He has also had several species of plants, insects and birds named after him.

Television

David joined the BBC in 1952 as a producer. In 1954, he began working on a programme called 'Zoo Quest'. This programme showed animals in their natural environment, which was unusual at the time.

David left the BBC in 1972 so he could create his own shows. He started a series called 'Life on Earth' in 1976 which became very popular.

David's 'Planet Earth' has become the biggest wildlife documentary ever made and was the first show to air in **high definition** on the BBC.

Did You Know...?

When David started working for the BBC, he did not own a television.



Sir David Attenborough

Many of David's recent programmes talk about the damage that humans are doing to our planet. He works hard to show people the effects of plastic pollution and other environmental issues that are damaging our planet. He works hard to encourage people to look after our Earth and the plants and animals that depend on it.



Did You Know...?

David was an important speaker at the COP26 climate change conference in 2021.

Glossary

high definition:	A very detailed and high-quality image on a screen.
naturalist:	A person who studies animals, plants, birds and other living things.
university:	A place where adults go to study and continue their education.

Questions

1. For how long has David Attenborough been making television programmes? Tick one.

- 50 years
- 60 years
- 60 months
- 50 months

2. What is the name of the programme David worked on in 1954? Tick one.

- Life on Earth
- Life in Cold Blood
- Zoo Quest
- Animal Quest

3. Draw **four** lines and complete each sentence.

David loved science and nature as a child and...

in their natural environment.

David works hard to encourage people to look after our Earth and...

the plants and animals that depend on it.

'Zoo Quest' showed animals...

collected fossils, rocks and birds' eggs.

David was an important speaker...

at the COP26 climate change conference in 2021.

4. Where was David born? Tick one.

- Leicester
- London
- Cambridge
- North Wales

5. What did David learn about at university?

6. Look at the section called **His Achievements**.
Find and copy one word that means 'not long ago'.

7. **Many of David's recent programmes talk about the damage that humans are making to our planet.**

Why do you think that David chose to talk about these things in his programmes?

Answers

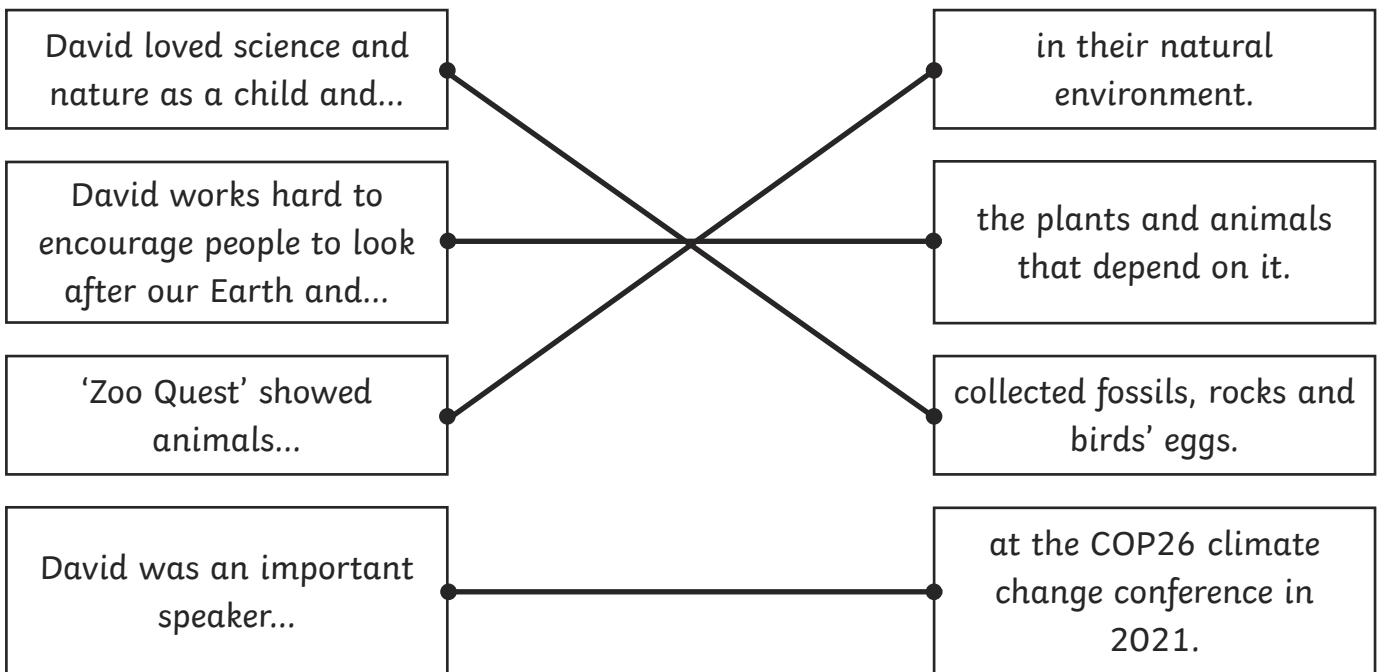
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4. Where was David born? Tick one.

- Leicester
- London**
- Cambridge
- North Wales

5. What did David learn about at university?

He went to Cambridge University to learn more about nature.

6. Look at the section called **His Achievements**.
Find and copy one word that means 'not long ago'.

recent

7. **Many of David's recent programmes talk about the damage that humans are making to our planet.**

Why do you think that David chose to talk about these things in his programmes?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think David chose to talk about these things so that the people watching will pay attention and try to make changes and do things that help our planet, such as recycling.

Sir David Attenborough

David Attenborough is a wildlife film-maker, presenter and **naturalist**. He has introduced millions of people to a variety of animals from around the world. David talks a lot about climate change and played an important role in the COP26 climate conference.



His Younger Years and Family Life

David Frederick Attenborough was born on 8th May 1926 in London. He and his two brothers grew up living at the University College in Leicester where their father was the head of the **university**.

Did You Know...?

David's brother Richard Attenborough was a famous actor and director.

David became interested in the natural world and animals from a young age and enjoyed collecting birds' eggs and fossils. Once he had finished school, David studied natural sciences at the University of Cambridge. However, David was called to serve for two years in the Royal Navy once he completed university. David later married Jane Oriel in 1950 and they had two children together.

His Career

David returned to London after the Second World War and started working as a producer for the BBC. This was the beginning of his amazing career in television.

In 1954, David created a show called 'Zoo Quest'. This was filmed in many interesting places and showed animals in their natural environment. This was quite unusual at the time and the show was very popular with viewers.

David left the BBC in 1972 so he could write and produce his own shows. His most successful programme was 'Life on Earth', which was first shown on TV in 1976. As well as making many other shows throughout his career, he continued to make other 'Life' programmes. Each one focused on a different plant or animal group.

More recently, David's 'Planet Earth' has become the biggest wildlife documentary ever made and was the first show to air in **high definition** on the BBC.



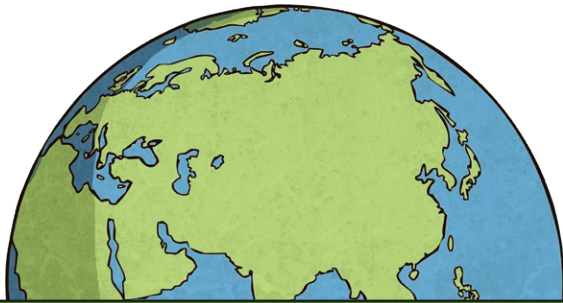
Sir David Attenborough

His Achievements

David has gained many awards throughout his career. In 1985, He received his first knighthood from The Queen and was given the title of Sir David Attenborough.

Did You Know...?

David has many species of plants, insects and birds named after him, such as the *Nepenthes attenboroughii*. This is a giant plant that eats small animals.



David has helped people to better understand the world around them and the need to care for it. He is a leading figure in the fight against plastic pollution, the protection of rainforests and other issues that are damaging our planet.



Did You Know...?

In 2021, David spoke at the COP26 climate change conference where he urged world leaders to take action against climate change.

Glossary

high definition:	A very detailed and high-quality image on a screen.
naturalist:	A person who studies animals, plants, birds and other living things.
university:	A place where adults go to study and continue their education.

Questions

1. When was David born? Tick one.

- 6th May 1928
- 8th May 1925
- 5th May 1926
- 8th May 1926

2. Why did David grow up living at the University College in Leicester? Tick one.

- His father studied there.
- They didn't have a house.
- His father was the head of the university.
- David wanted to learn so they lived there.

3. Number the events from 1-5 to show the order that they appear in the text. The first one has been done for you.

- 1 David was born in London.
- 'Life on Earth' was first shown on TV.
- David left the BBC.
- David received a knighthood from The Queen.
- David created a show called 'Zoo Quest'.

4. What was unusual at the time about the show 'Zoo Quest'?

- It was filmed in a zoo.
- It showed animals in their natural environment.
- It was filmed in colour and not black and white.
- It was presented by David Attenborough.

5. What did David collect as a child?

6. Fill in the missing words.

He is a leading figure in the fight against plastic _____, the protection of _____ and other issues that are damaging our planet.

7. Why do you think David is fighting against plastic pollution?

8. Why do you think that the author of the text has written that David has had **an amazing career in television**?

Answers

1. When was David born? Tick one.

- 6th May 1928
- 8th May 1925
- 5th May 1926
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2. Why did David grow up living at the University College in Leicester? Tick one.

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David enjoyed collecting birds' eggs and fossils.

6. Fill in the missing words.

He is a leading figure in the fight against plastic **pollution**, the protection of **rainforests** and other issues that are damaging our planet.

7. Why do you think David is fighting against plastic pollution?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think David is fighting against plastic pollution because he cares about the planet and wants humans to look after it.

8. Why do you think that the author of the text has written that David has had **an amazing career in television**?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the author said this because David has produced lots of popular programmes over many years. He has helped to make a difference by teaching people about important issues affecting the planet.

Sir David Attenborough

Sir David Attenborough is a natural historian and **broadcaster** who has introduced millions of people to a variety of animals from around the world. David is an important climate change **campaigner** and played a key role in the COP26 climate conference.



His Younger Years and Family Life

David Frederick Attenborough was born on 8th May 1926 in London. He and his two brothers were raised on the **campus** of the University College in Leicester where their father was a university principal and writer.

Brothers in Broadcasting

David's brother was Richard Attenborough: an award-winning actor and director.

David became interested in the natural world and animals from a young age. By the age of seven, he had an impressive collection of birds' eggs and fossils. Once he had finished school, David studied natural sciences at the University of Cambridge. However, David was called to serve for two years in the Royal Navy once he graduated. In 1950, David married Jane Oriel and they had two children together.

His Career

After the war ended, David returned to London and by 1952, he was working as a producer for the BBC. This was the beginning of his amazing career in television.

In 1954, David began making a successful television series called 'Zoo Quest'. The series filmed animals in the wild, allowing viewers to see them in their natural environment in sometimes far-off and exotic locations.

BBC Two was created in 1965 and David started working as both controller and director of programming. He continued to bring viewers educational programmes about nature and history. However, David resigned from the BBC in 1972 to follow his own interests and work independently. David began to write and produce many TV series on his own. His most successful programme was 'Life on Earth', which first aired in 1976. 'Life on Earth' was a series that explored wildlife in its natural habitat around the world. The show was very popular and up to 500 million people tuned in to watch it.

More recently, David's 'Planet Earth' has become the biggest wildlife documentary ever made and was the first show to air in high definition on the BBC.



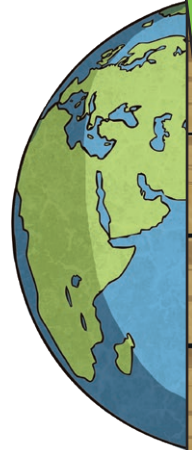
Achievements

David has gained many awards throughout his career. In 1985, he received his first knighthood from the Queen and was given the title of Sir David Attenborough.

David has several species of plants, insects and birds named after him, such as the *Nepenthes attenboroughii*. This is a giant plant that eats small animals.



David has made significant contributions to our understanding of nature and the need to care for it. David is a leading figure in the fight against plastic pollution, **deforestation** and other issues that are having a damaging impact on our planet. In 2021, David spoke at the COP26 climate change conference where he urged world leaders to take action against climate change.



Glossary

broadcaster:	Someone who appears in radio or television programmes.
campaigner:	A person who works to bring about change.
campus:	The grounds of a university or college.
deforestation:	Clearing large areas of trees, such as those in rainforests.

Questions

1. Which jobs did David's father have? Tick **two**.

- actor
- writer
- university principal
- broadcaster

2. How many children did David and his wife have? Tick one.

- one
- three
- none
- two

3. When did David marry his wife, Jane Oriel?

4. Fill in the missing words.

'Zoo Quest' filmed animals in the wild, allowing _____ to see animals in their natural _____ in sometimes far-off and exotic locations.

5. What job did David start when BBC Two was created?

6. **'Zoo Quest' filmed animals in the wild, allowing viewers to see animals in their natural environment in sometimes far-off and exotic locations.**

What does the word 'exotic' mean?

7. Why do you think that David was asked to speak at the COP26 climate change conference?

8. Summarise what you have learnt about David in 25 words or fewer.

Answers

1. Which jobs did David's father have? Tick **two**.

- actor
- writer**
- university principal**
- broadcaster

2. How many children did David and his wife have? Tick one.

- one
- three
- none
- two**

3. When did David marry his wife, Jane Oriel?

David married Jane Oriel in 1950.

4. Fill in the missing words.

'Zoo Quest' filmed animals in the wild, allowing **viewers** to see animals in their natural **environment** in sometimes far-off and exotic locations.

5. What job did David start when BBC Two was created?

David started working as both controller and director of programming.

6. 'Zoo Quest' filmed animals in the wild, allowing viewers to see animals in their natural environment in sometimes far-off and exotic locations.

What does the word 'exotic' mean?

Pupils' own responses, such as: The word 'exotic' means when something comes from a far and distant part of the world.

7. Why do you think that David was asked to speak at the COP26 climate change conference?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think David was asked because he is a well-known person and is respected by many. He has also produced lots of programmes where he talks about climate change so people may view him as an expert in that area.

8. Summarise what you have learnt about David in 25 words or fewer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Sir David Attenborough has been making popular wildlife programmes for over 60 years. He has been knighted by The Queen and has spoken at COP26.