

Sir David Attenborough

David Attenborough is a wildlife film-maker and naturalist (a scientist who studies animals and their behaviour).

He has been making television programmes for over 60 years and many people think he is a national treasure.



Early Life

- David Frederick Attenborough was born in London on 8th May 1926.
- He lived on the campus of University College, Leicester as his father was a principal there.
- He lived with his parents, Mary and Frederick, and his two brothers, Richard and John.

As a child, David loved science and nature: he collected fossils, rocks, and bird eggs. After finishing school, he studied natural sciences at Cambridge University. After finishing university, he was called to do two years' service in the Royal Navy in North Wales.

Television

In 1952, David joined the BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) as a producer.

In 1954, he began working on a programme called 'Zoo Quest'. This programme showed animals in their natural environment – something that was unusual at the time.

David left the BBC in 1972 so he could create his own shows. In 1979, he started a series called 'Life on Earth' which also became popular. Over 30 years, he made nine different 'Life' programmes.

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

When David joined the BBC, he didn't own a television.

The Life Collection

- 1979 - Life on Earth
- 1984 - The Living Planet
- 1990 - The Trails of Life
- 1993 - Life in the Freezer
- 1995 - The Private Life of Plants
- 1998 - The Life of Birds
- 2002 - The Life of Mammals
- 2005 - Life in the Undergrowth
- 2008 - Life in Cold Blood

His Achievements

Attenborough has earned many awards throughout his career. Not only has he received a knighthood from the Queen, but he has also had several species of plants, insects and birds named after him.

Sir David Attenborough is raising awareness of plastic pollution and other environmental issues that are damaging our planet.

Did You Know...?

He was born 17 days after Queen Elizabeth II.



Key Words:

Habitat – a place that an animal lives.

Pollution – harming the planet and environment (through gases, noise, plastic).

Fossils – remains of a living organism.

Environment – a place where living things live (e.g. our Earth).

Knighthood – a rank of honour given by a king or queen to for service to his country.

Species – a group of similar organisms (e.g. dogs, cats, humans).

Answer these questions on a piece of paper and upload to Class Dojo for your teacher:

- 1) How long has David Attenborough been making television programmes for?
- 2) What did he study at university?
- 3) What is the name of the programme David worked on in 1954?
- 4) What is the name of David's father?
- 5) What did David receive from the Queen?
- 6) Decide whether the statements are **true** or **false**:
 - David liked to show animals in their natural habitat.
 - David made seven 'Life' programmes.
 - Planet Earth is the biggest wildlife documentary ever made.
 - The last 'Life' series he made was called 'Life in Cold Blood'.

Challenge:

Why do you think David Attenborough is raising awareness about the damage plastic pollution is doing to the planet?

