

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 is considered by many to be 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 other items, such as bird eggs. After finishing school, he continued his fascination by studying natural sciences at Cambridge University. After finishing university, he was called to do two years' service in the Royal Navy. He spent those two years in North Wales.

Television

In 1952, David joined the BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) as a producer. In 1954, he began working on a series 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 incredibly popular

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

When David joined the BBC, he had only seen one television programme.

David left the BBC in 1972 so he could write and produce his own shows. In 1979, he started a series called 'Life on Earth' which also became popular. 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. In 2008, he finally completed the collection with 'Life in Cold Blood' – a series about reptiles.

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.

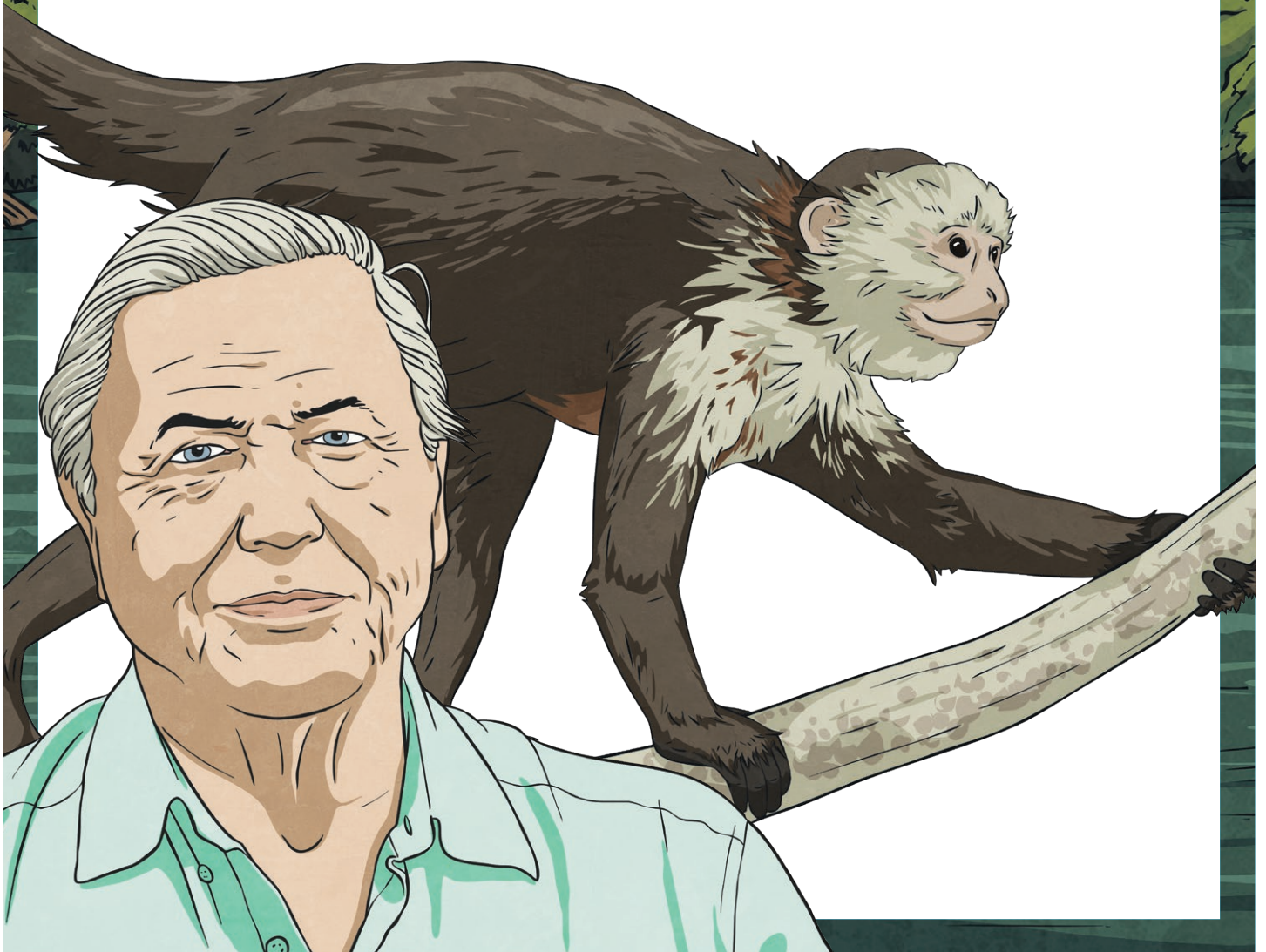
His Achievements

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 has made significant contributions to our understanding of nature and the need to care for it. He is a leading figure in the fight against plastic pollution and other environmental issues that are damaging our planet.

Did You Know...?

David wouldn't say he is an animal lover. He says he is 'fascinated' by them.



Questions

1. When was David born? Tick **one**.

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

2. Why did David live on the campus of University college, Leicester? Tick **one**.

- ☐ His father studied there.
- ☐ They didn't have a house.
- ☐ His father was a principal there.
- ☐ David wanted to learn so they lived there.

3. What did David collect as a child?

4. Use the information in the text to order the statements. The first one has been done for you.

- ☒ 1 David studied natural sciences at Cambridge University.
- ☐ David began working on 'Life on Earth'.
- ☐ David left the BBC.
- ☐ David joined the BBC as a producer.
- ☐ David created a show called 'Zoo Quest'.

5. What is the name of the show that was the first to air in high definition on the BBC?

6. When did David complete the 'Life Collection'? Tick **one**.

- ☐ 2005
- ☐ 2008
- ☐ 2002
- ☐ 2009

7. Why do you think David was knighted by the queen?

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

Answers

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3. What did David collect as a child?

David collected fossils, rocks and bird's eggs as a child.

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Planet Earth

6. When did David complete the 'Life Collection'? Tick **one**.

- ☐ 2005
- ☒ **2008**
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- ☐ 2009

7. Why do you think David was knighted by the queen?

Pupil's own response that refers to the text, such as: 'I think David was knighted by the queen because he has taught so many people lots of things about nature. He has also earned lots of other awards so he is good at what he does.'

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

Pupil's own response that refers to the text, such as: 'I think David Attenborough is fighting against plastic pollution because pollution damaging the planet. It is destroying the homes of different creatures and hurting them. I think this is important to him because he cares about animals and wants them to live.'