

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 8th 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.



"David Attenborough at Great Barrier Reef" by Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is licensed under [CC BY 2.0](#)

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!

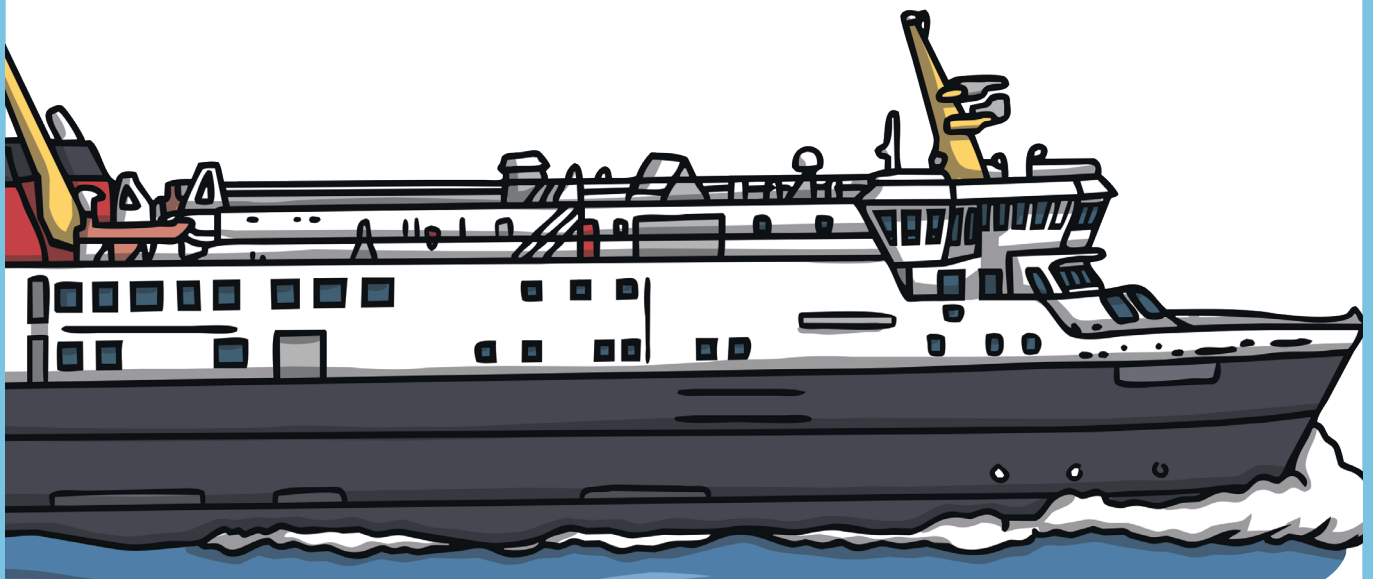
His first programme was called 'Animal Patterns'. On the show, zookeepers brought real animals from London Zoo into the studio.

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?

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.

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.
