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.



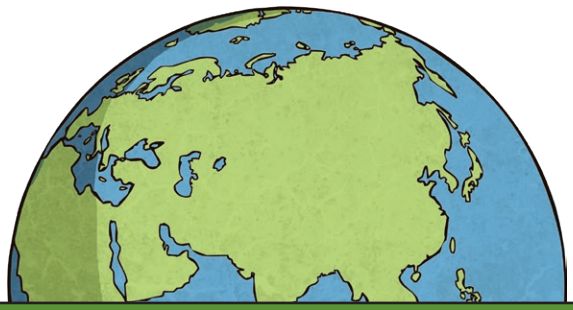
visit twinkl.com

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.

visit twinkl.com

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.

visit twinkl.com

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**?

visit twinkl.com