

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.



Questions

1. How long has David Attenborough been making television programmes for? Tick **one**.

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

2. What did he study at university?

3. 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

4. What is the name of David's father? Tick **one**.

- Frederick
- John
- Richard
- David

5. Tick the boxes to say whether the sentences are **true** or **false**.

Sentence	True	False
David liked to show animals in their natural habitat.		
David made seven different 'Life' programmes.		
Planet Earth is the biggest wildlife documentary ever made.		
The last 'Life' series he made was called 'Life in Cold Blood'.		

6. What did David receive from the Queen?

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

Answers

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Natural Sciences

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Planet Earth is the biggest wildlife documentary ever made.	✓	
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6. What did David receive from the Queen?

David received a knighthood from the queen.

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

Pupil's own response that refers to the text, such as: 'I think David Attenborough is raising awareness of plastic pollution because pollution is bad for 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.'