

A SCIENTIST JUST LIKE ME



Prem Singh Gill
Polar scientist

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Hi there! I am Prem Gill – A polar scientist



Where do I work?

I currently work with the Scott Polar Research Institute in Cambridge, with the British Antarctic Survey and with the World Wildlife Fund.

What did I like doing when I was at school?

I loved dancing, playing video games and riding my bike. My favourite lesson was geography because I got to learn about the world, all sorts of people, countries, landscapes and wildlife.

What do I like doing in my spare time?

I like to relax with my friends and a hot cup of tea. I enjoy studying Portuguese and watching foreign TV channels like NHK or Al Jazeera.

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What do I do as a polar scientist?



I study Antarctic seals. By using satellites to monitor where the seals live, breed and feed, we can gain a greater understanding of where they prefer to live. We can also find out about what is happening to their population.

How does what I do make the world a better place?

My work enables us to learn more about the health of the entire Antarctic ecosystem. This helps us to protect things living there and the whole region itself. Changes in the polar regions lead to changes across the world, like ice melting and global sea levels rising.

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What I like about my job

I love using technology to explore hidden or remote parts of planet Earth which we wouldn't ordinarily be able to see. I can witness rare moments, like a newly born seal pup lying beside its mother on the sea ice.



Challenges I have faced

As a conservationist, my job involves finding and solving challenges. However, there can be other challenges that people may face on their journey to be a conservationist. This can be figuring out how to pay for higher education and fieldwork experience or finding role models and mentors from similar backgrounds to your own.

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If you want to be a polar scientist, you need:

- ✳️ **to care** about protecting all life in our world, from humans to the cute seals and penguins
- ✳️ to be confident and not to be afraid of **thinking creatively**
- ✳️ to **be flexible in** how you think, so that you can apply your knowledge to many areas, as there is an economic, social, cultural and environmental impact to climate change



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Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be a polar scientist like Prem Gill?

Why? Why not?



- ✦ What skills and interests do you already have that would help you become a polar scientist?
- ✦ What new skills and knowledge would you need to develop?

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Free supporting resources for polar science

[Why & How Newsletter](#) (Spring 2018) – see ‘Pictures for Talk’

[Earth Explorers](#) – see ‘Exploring the Oceans’ and ‘Icy blast’ suitable for children aged 5-7.

[I bet you didn't know...](#) articles use cutting-edge science research as a context for learning. Teacher Guides describing the research and activities and investigations for children can be used as classroom presentations. See:

- Whale song is changing

Created by the Primary Science Teaching Trust

