

# A SCIENTIST just like me



**Dr Jo Montgomery**  
**Animal Behavioural**  
**Neuroscientist**

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**Hi there! I am Dr Jo Montgomery –  
an animal behavioural neuroscientist**

## **Where do I work?**

I used to study animals at a research institute in Cambridge, but now I teach children about all sorts of different types of science.



## **What did I like doing when I was at school?**

I always loved science and would often be found outside collecting snails and woodlice, digging about in the mud or in rock pools, mixing potions or playing vets!

## **What do I like doing in my spare time?**

I love spending time outside in nature, walking, spotting plants and animals and being curious about what's around me. I also like spending time with my family, baking and eating cake!

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## What do I do as an animal behavioural neuroscientist?

I study animals and link their behaviour (what they are doing) with what's going on inside their bodies and their brains.



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

Understanding animals can help us to explain how things work, in humans and in other animals. If we understand how our brains and bodies work, we can find out what happens when something goes wrong – like with illness or disease – and be one step closer to finding a cure. My job now involves inspiring others to be curious and find things out.

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## What I like about my job

I love sharing my passion for science. It's great to be able to be involved in things I care about everyday and to pass that on to others.

## Challenges I have faced

I have changed my career direction a few times to follow the things I'm interested in. This means I've taken lots of sideways steps rather than progressing upwards in a traditional career path – sometimes it's better to take the time to look left and right as well as at the road ahead!



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If you want to be an animal behavioural neuroscientist, you need:

- ✳️ **to be curious** about the world around you.
- ✳️ **to be interested** in how things work.
- ✳️ **to enjoy working with animals.**
- ✳️ **to have good problem-solving skills** to work out what's going on and how it might fit into a bigger picture.



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## Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be an animal behavioural neuroscientist like Dr Jo Montgomery?

**Why? Why not?**



- ✦ What skills and interests do you already have that would help you become an animal behavioural neuroscientist?
- ✦ What new skills and knowledge would you need to develop?

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Jo Montgomery is a STEM ambassador. Click [here](#) to access free STEM Ambassador support and resources.

## Free supporting resources for animal behaviour

**Starters for Science** – see 'Animal camouflage'

**Science Fun at Home** – see 'Spider safari'

**Science for One** – see 'Foil' (ages 5-7), 'Coat-hanger' (ages 9-11)

**Earth Explorers** – See 'Going underground'

**I bet you didn't know...** articles use cutting-edge science research as a context for learning. Teacher Guides can be used as classroom presentations:

- Some mammals have unusual backbones
- Stripes and concealment
- What is happening to the bees
- Evolution of life in cities
- About biodiversity and trophic cascades

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