

A SCIENTIST just like me



Sara Trabulo
Biochemist

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Hi there! I am Sara Trabulo – A biochemist



Where do I work?

I work at AstraZeneca, in Cambridge, developing new medicines for people who need them. I've also worked as a scientist in Spain, France and Portugal.

What did I like doing when I was at school?

I have always enjoyed science, and I was also very interested in learning languages. I could never decide if I preferred biology or chemistry, so I studied biochemistry.

What do I like doing in my spare time?

I like knitting, concerts, art museums and trying new foods. So, my travelling lists always include exhibitions and eating local foods!

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What do I do as a biochemist?



I develop the tests that every new medicine must go through to check that it is safe and works properly to treat diseases in people. We study each part of the medicine to understand which parts make it work well, and how we can measure that in the laboratory.

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

In my job I make sure that every new medicine that is developed is the best that it can be. By being part of a big team that develops new medicines, I help doctors to have the right tools to treat more diseases, so that everyone can be healthier.

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What I like about my job

I really like the fact that I get to understand how medicines work, and how to design and produced them to work properly and treat people. I also enjoy working in teams and sharing results with the world at conferences and through writing papers.



Challenges I have faced

I found it very difficult when my experiments did not work as I imagined. But I have learned that the most interesting projects often start with experiments that have surprising results! When a result is unexpected, you are discovering something that no one knew before!

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If you want to be a biochemist, you need:

- ✱ **to be curious** about how things work, in particular living things. This could be about people and how they get to be healthy or sick, but it could also be about animals, plants or germs.
- ✱ **to be creative** and to be able to have new ideas and create solutions for problems no one has solved before!
- ✱ **to enjoy generating a 'hypothesis'** and then testing them out to find out whether you were right or wrong



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Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be a biochemist like Sara Trabulo?

Why? Why not?

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



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Free supporting resources for biochemistry

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:

- Dragons could save us from bad bacteria
- Bacteria get viral infections as well
- Slug slime might be the answer for medical adhesives

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