

A SCIENTIST just like me



Dr Anjana Khatwa
Earth scientist

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Hi there! I am Dr Anjana Khatwa – An Earth scientist



Where do I work?

I used to work at the Jurassic Coast World Heritage site, but I now work at Wessex Museums where I help people learn about rocks and fossils.

What did I like doing when I was at school?

I have always loved Science! When I was 8 years old, I wanted to be an astronaut. Now I love anything to do with rocks, fossils and landforms.

What do I like doing in my spare time?

I love running and baking cakes. One of my favourite TV shows is the Great British Bake Off. Football is also very important in my family!

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What do I do as an Earth scientist?

I collect rocks and fossils from the beach and then I study them closely to see what I can learn about the creatures that lived in the sea and on Earth over 150 million years ago. Earth Scientists also find out more about mountains, caves, swamps and even the seabed!



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

My job now involves working with other people to share what I know about the history of the Earth and how the Earth is changing today, including the climate. This helps people understand climate change and what needs to happen to prevent it.

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What I like about my job

The best thing about my job is being outside being able to use my science knowledge and imagination to work out what the Earth used to be like. And I always get a thrill when I find a fossil that has been hidden for millions of years in a rock.



Challenges I have faced

I grew up in a family where girls were expected to get married and stay at home when they got older. But I decided that science was really important to me, so I studied hard at school to show my family that I wanted to have a career.

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If you want to be an Earth scientist, you need:

- ✦ **a great imagination** so you can visualise what rocks and fossils used to be like
- ✦ **to be interested** in things like rivers and volcanoes and anything that helps to shape our Earth today
- ✦ to **enjoy looking at rocks and fossils** to work out how the Earth used to look thousands of years ago, and what sort of animals and plants lived there. It is a bit like a detective using clues to solve a mystery
- ✦ **to be curious** and want to **ask questions**



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Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be an Earth scientist like Dr Anjana Khatwa?

Why? Why not?



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

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Free supporting resources for Earth science

The Big Jurassic Classroom - resources and information to support teachers with using their local environments to inspire interest in the UK's geological history. The resources include exciting activities for learning about rocks, fossils and evolution.

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:

- Some mammals have unusual backbones
- Evolution of life in cities

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