

A SCIENTIST JUST LIKE ME



Dr Zoë Ayres
Water scientist

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Hi there! I am Dr Zoë Ayres – A water scientist



Where do I work?

I work for a water company. It is my job to make sure that when we get water from our taps at home it is clean and safe to drink.

What did I like doing when I was at school?

I always loved doing science, but also art. I liked mixing and seeing what new colours I could make. Now I make and test new science!

What do I like doing in my spare time?

I love going out for walks and baking lots of tasty cakes. I also love spending time with my family, and I have a cat called Fluffy.

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What do I do as a water scientist?

I collect water samples from rivers and streams and even your taps at home and I check to make sure that the water is safe. If it is unsafe I use chemistry to clean the water so that it is safe to drink and safe for the environment.



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

Everyone should be able to have access to clean water but unfortunately some people don't. My job is to create new science to help improve this and keep people safe and healthy. Monitoring water is also very important to understand the effects of climate change.

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What I like about my job



I get to go adventuring across the world to learn about new science and I even get to visit rivers and streams to collect some of my samples to test. I also work with some amazing other scientists who are really fun and we have a great time.

Challenges I have faced

Sometimes I thought I couldn't be a scientist, but everyone can be! I once got told I couldn't be a scientist, but I proved the person wrong. Sometimes it is important to believe in yourself and that you can achieve.

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

- ✱ to **care** about looking after other people and our planet
- ✱ to be **good at looking carefully** so you can spot the differences between different scientific samples using chemistry
- ✱ to be **curious** about the natural world around you
- ✱ **not to be afraid to ask questions** if you don't understand something (it is very important to ask!)



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Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be a water scientist like Dr Zoë Ayres?

Why? Why not?



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

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Free supporting resources for water science

Starters for science – see ‘Melting ice’

Science Fun at Home – see ‘Liquid science’, ‘Salty science’, ‘Watery science’ and ‘Science with Ice’

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:

- Toilets in the future may charge our mobile phones
- The science of hand-washing
- Water can be harvested from the air in very dry climates

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