

A SCIENTIST just like me



Tanesha Allen
Zoologist

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Hi there! I am Tanesha Allen – A zoologist



Where do I work?

I work at the University of Oxford. I have just finished my PhD which was about badgers and now I talk to students about how they can study wildlife.

What did I like doing when I was at school?

I always loved learning about animals. I really liked helping to take care of our class pet (two lizards!) and going to the zoo and aquarium.

What do I like doing in my spare time?

I like to do non-science things like knitting, listening to podcasts, and writing. I'm also trying to learn French and sign language.

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What do I do as a zoologist?



I look at animal behaviour to see how and why animals communicate with each other. In particular, I study badgers by setting up cameras outside and analysing the videos the next day. Zoologists also study animal diseases, navigation, learning and evolution.

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

I teach students about how they can analyse wildlife around their neighbourhoods and schools. This helps students (and their families and teachers) to learn more about the world around them, and to be interested in learning how to take care of their environment.

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What I like about my job

I love to investigate why animals do certain things, then design experiments to answer those questions, and watch videos that I have collected to see if my questions were answered. It is fun to watch what animals do when humans are not around.



Challenges I have faced

As I grew up, I met a lot of people who thought that I wasn't intelligent enough to become a scientist. They thought this because of what I look like. But I knew this wasn't right, and I decided to ignore them because I couldn't imagine doing any other job.

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If you want to be a zoologist, you need:

- ✱ to **love animals** because you will spend a lot of time with them
- ✱ to **enjoy getting messy** because you might have to go outside in the rain and mud to set up experiments. You might also have to get samples from animals (like urine and blood)
- ✱ to **be creative** so you can come up with new questions



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Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be a zoologist like Tanesha Allen?

Why? Why not?



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

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Free supporting resources for zoology

[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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