

A SCIENTIST JUST LIKE ME



Vicky Bowskill
Science Illustrator



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Hi there! I am Vicky Bowskill – A science illustrator



Where do I work?

I work for the Open University researching meadow ecology, and I'm also a self-employed science illustrator.

What did I like doing when I was at school?

I loved biology and art and spent most of my spare time out in the countryside learning about the plants that grew there.

What do I like doing in my spare time?

I love doodling and going for nature walks. When I go walking, I like to forage for herbs and wild foods like blackberries that I can make into drinks and cakes. I've always enjoyed plants that I can eat!

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What do I do as a science illustrator?

I work with other environmental scientists to understand their research and create fun artwork that tells a story about what they do. This could be summarising an event or project, or making a simple visual version of a scientific research paper. This makes it easier for other people to understand new research and what it means.



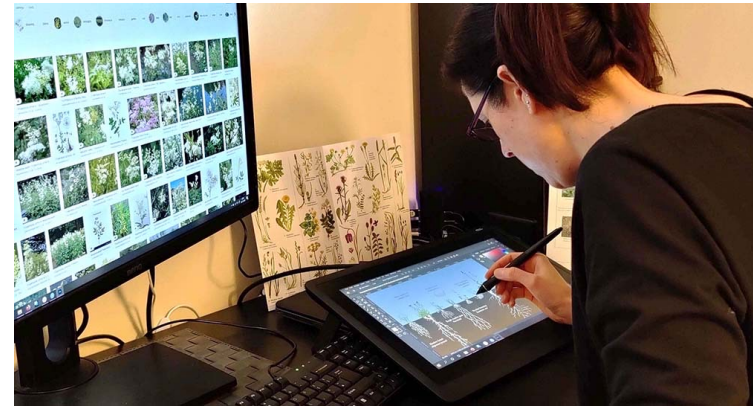
How does what I do make the world a better place?

My job helps non-scientists to understand important ideas and new research and use the best information to make decisions that shape the world we live in. This could be people who make policies about how to protect our environment, or farmers making the best decisions about how to look after nature whilst also producing food.

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What I like about my job

I work with lots of amazing scientists and interesting projects. I can use my imagination to come up with all sorts of fun doodles and images that tell a story about the project, and I create artwork that people love to read and share.



Challenges I have faced

I am autistic and dyslexic, which meant I didn't do very well at school. But I love learning and creating, so I came back to education in my 30s and found I could do very well with the right help. Then I discovered a way to combine both art and science in a career that makes me really happy.

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Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be a science illustrator like Vicky Bowskill?

Why? Why not?



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

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Free supporting resources for ecology & science illustration

[The Molliebird](#) - a narrative poem, exquisitely illustrated, The Molliebird tells the story of natural selection for children aged 7-11

[Science Fun at Home](#) – see 'Spider Safari'

[Earth Explorers](#) – see 'Going Underground'

[Science for One](#) – see 'Coat hanger Quadrats' for children aged 9-11

[I bet you didn't know...](#) resources use cutting-edge science research as a context for learning. See:

- What is happening to the bees
- Stripes and concealment

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