

# A Scientist just like me



**Laura Michie**  
**Marine and Coastal**  
**Scientist**

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**Hi there! I am Laura Michie – a marine and coastal scientist**



## **Where do I work?**

I work at Mangrove Action Project (MAP), an organisation dedicated to restoring and protecting mangrove forests around the world.

## **What did I like doing when I was at school?**

I loved science, especially biology. I loved learning about nature and how the environment works. I was always curious about the oceans, plants, and animals.

## **What do I like doing in my spare time?**

I enjoy exploring new places and going on walks with my friends. I also love paddleboarding. I spend time on the water and enjoy nature.

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## **What do I do as a marine and coastal scientist?**

I help plan and manage projects that restore mangrove forests. I work with people who live near the coast to understand their needs, research ways to grow healthy forests, and share what I learn in workshops. I also help raise awareness about the importance of mangroves.



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

Mangrove forests are vital for protecting coastal areas from storms, providing homes for wildlife, and storing carbon to fight climate change. People living near these forests depend on them for food, work, and safety. My job helps bring back these important forests and supports those communities, making the world healthier for everyone.



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## What I like about my job

I love working with people from different backgrounds and seeing the positive impact of our projects on both the environment and local communities. It is exciting to combine science with real-world solutions and to know that our work helps protect these amazing forests.



## Challenges I have faced

One challenge is working with people who speak different languages, so we often use translators to understand each other. Being a woman in science can also be challenging - some people are surprised to see a woman leading projects, but I believe anyone can make a difference with passion and hard work.

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If you want to be a marine and coastal scientist, you need:

- ✱ **curiosity** – always asking questions about how nature works and looking for ways to solve environmental challenges
- ✱ **communication skills** – sharing ideas with scientists, community members, and decision-makers
- ✱ **problem-solving** – finding creative and effective ways to restore ecosystems and support coastal communities
- ✱ **a passion for the environment** – caring deeply about protecting nature and making a difference in the world



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## Discussion time

- ✦ Would you like to be a marine and coastal scientist like Laura Michie?

**Why? Why not?**



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

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Laura Michie is a STEM ambassador. Click [here](#) to access free STEM Ambassador support and resources.

## Free supporting resources for marine and coastal science

[Why & How Magazine](#) (Autumn 2019) – see ‘Microplastics in our seas’

[Did you know?](#) articles use cutting-edge science research as a context for learning. Teacher Guides can be used as classroom presentations. They explain what scientists have done and suggest practical activities for children. Children interested in marine science might also be interested in these projects. See:

- [Whale song is changing](#)
- [Soundscapes can help restore coral reefs](#)

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