

# A SCIENTIST just like me



**Rhian Pugh**  
**Marine Benthic Taxonomist**

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**Hi there! I am Rhian Pugh – a marine benthic taxonomist**



## **Where do I work?**

I work at Fugro, in the Marine Environmental Team – you will find me in the Benthic Laboratory, happily looking at creatures from the ocean floor through my microscope.

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

My favourite subjects were biology and art – especially anything involving animals and the natural world.

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

I love travelling, walking and riding my bike along the coast. I volunteer on beach surveys in Hampshire. I also enjoy films, audiobooks and anything 'arty'.

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## What do I do as a marine benthic taxonomist?

At the lab we receive samples taken from the seabed by our boat survey team. We remove the creatures from these samples. Then I spend my time on my microscope identifying them. I come across some very curious beasts! Some live on the beach and others can only be found in the ocean.



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

Our observations in the laboratory help us to understand the earth's oceans and unlock its secrets, so that we can protect our marine environments for future generations.

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## What I like about my job

I love learning something new every day and getting to see the great variety of marine creatures that are in the oceans through my microscope. I also enjoy mentoring the junior members of the team and teaching what I know to the next generation of marine taxonomists.



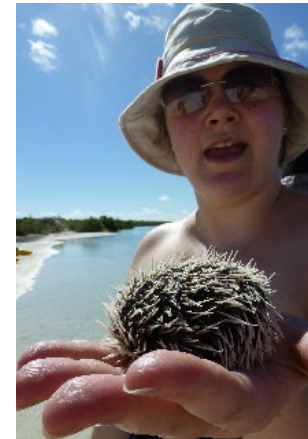
## Challenges I have faced

Sometimes it can be very tricky identifying a creature from somewhere previously unexplored. It can take a lot of reading and research to solve the mystery of what it is.

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If you want to be a marine benthic taxonomist, you need:

- ✱ to **enjoy solving a puzzle**
- ✱ to have a **passion for learning** – new species are always being discovered, and we survey from all over the world; every day I learn something new!
- ✱ to pay **attention to detail**
- ✱ to be a **good team player**



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## Discussion time

- ✱ Would you like to be a marine benthic taxonomist like Rhian Pugh?

**Why? Why not?**



- ✱ What skills and interests do you already have that would help you become a marine benthic taxonomist?
- ✱ What new skills and knowledge would you need to develop?

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

## Free supporting resources for marine 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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