A scientist just like me

Emma Dunne - Palaeobiologist

For more 'A Scientist Just Like Me' slideshows, see:
www.pstt.org.uk/unique-resources/a-scientist-just-like-me/

Primary Science Teaching Trust

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Hi there! I am Emma Dunne – A palaeobiologist

Where do I work?

I work at the University of Birmingham, where I conduct scientific research and teach students about all aspects of palaeobiology.

What did I like doing when I was at school?

Biology and geography were my favourite subjects, but I also really enjoyed languages.

What do I like doing in my spare time?

I love getting out in nature and walking, hiking, and kayaking, even in really bad weather! But I also love to stay cosy indoors to draw and read.

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What do I do as a palaeobiologist?

I use information from fossils, such as dinosaurs and other reptiles, to investigate how ancient climate change affected the the evolution of different species over millions of years of Earth's history.

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

Understanding what happened in the past is a very useful way to help us predict what might happen in the future. Insights from fossil species are helping us to understand how living species might be affected by the climate change happening across the world today.

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What I like about my job

The best thing about my job is that no two days are the same. One day I could be engrossed in some complex data analysis on my computer, the next I could be flying across the world to go and dig up some dinosaur bones!

Challenges I have faced

There is an idea that you need to be good at maths to be a great scientist, but I know many scientists, including myself, who hated it at school! As scientists, we now use maths in much more creative ways than we did at school, which is much more enjoyable!

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If you want to be a palaeobiologist, you need:

- **to be curious** about the history of life on Earth
- **creativity**, so that you can design interesting scientific experiments and analyse.
- **to work as part of a diverse team.** Being a palaeobiologist not only involves working with other scientists, but also museum curators, science communicators, and students, to name just a few examples!

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Discussion time

- Would you like to be a palaeobiologist like Emma Dunne?

  Why? Why not?

- What skills and interests do you already have that would help you become a palaeobiologist?

- What new skills and knowledge would you need to develop?

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Free supporting resources for palaeobiology

The Big Jurassic Classroom - resources and information to support teachers with using their local environments to inspire interest in the UK's geological history. The resources include exciting activities for learning about rocks, fossils and evolution.

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:

- Some mammals have unusual backbones
- Evolution of life in cities

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About the Primary Science Teaching Trust (PSTT)

PSTT is a charity whose vision is to see excellent teaching of science in every primary classroom in the UK

What we offer

- **FREE** tried and tested, curriculum-linked resources

BROWSE RESOURCES HERE: www.pstt.org.uk/resources/

- Guidance for science subject leaders

VISIT: www.pstt.org.uk/support/support-for-science-leadership/

- Bespoke one-to-one support for science subject and school leaders

FIND OUT MORE HERE: www.pstt.org.uk/support/

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