



A research social scientist studies the relationships between people and the environment.

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<http://www.naturalinquirer.org>



Important Scientist Characteristics

The talents that contribute most to my scientific research are curiosity, creativity, and careful observation. To design questions, I need to find out how the people and communities I investigate have historically used the land and what potential changes in the environment will take place in the future.

Example of a simple research question I have tried to answer: How do communities that rely on the land for their livelihoods adapt to climate change?

Technology or equipment used in research: I use both surveys and interviews. Surveys enable me to ask a large number of people questions about how the environment has changed throughout their lifetime. I use interviews to ask smaller groups of people in-depth questions about how and why they believe the environment is changing.

: Most Exciting Discovery

- My most exciting discovery is
- finding how people from the same
- regions, who experience similar
- ecological changes, but who come
- from different cultural backgrounds,
- express unique reasons and stories as
- to how and why the environment is
- changing.

- **When did you know you wanted to be a scientist?** My parents are
- Mexican immigrants who do not
- speak English, and I am the first and
- only person in my family to attend
- college. Therefore, I did not know that
- I wanted to become a scientist until I
- was in college. I learned how to better
- understand and voice the concerns of
- underrepresented communities.