



A wildlife biologist studies living organisms such as birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians and their habitats, their life history, population changes, and movement patterns.

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Important Scientist Characteristics

I am good at remembering details such as the names of species, and I have a natural curiosity about how things work. I link one idea to another idea to create a brand new idea. I like to think carefully before I act and I am good at meeting deadlines.

Example of a simple research question I have tried to

answer: How do changes in the environment affect populations of birds and mammals? How vulnerable are birds and mammals to long-term changes in climate? How do birds and mammals respond to the removal of fire fuels and invasive species?

Technology or equipment used in research: I use mist nets to capture songbirds. A mist net is like a fine volleyball net. Birds get caught in the netting, but are not injured. I measure each bird and put a numbered band on it to keep track of it over time. Then, I open my hands and watch the bird fly away.

: Most Exciting Discovery

: My favorite science experience was
: climbing to the top of El Triunfo, a
: Biosphere Reserve in Mexico, to set
: up a forest program with Mexican
: protected areas. I went in search of
: the resplendent quetzal, a tropical
: bird with bright green feathers and
: a long tail.

: When did you know you wanted to be a scientist?

: I learned I wanted to study
: science in college when I took an
: ecology course. I wanted a profession
: where I could work outdoors and
: learn more about wild animals and
: plants. In high school, I also belonged
: to a science club whose members
: hiked in the Sierra Nevada, and that
: experience had an influence on me.