



The life of Sir David Attenborough



Who is Sir David Attenborough?

Sir David Attenborough is an English broadcaster and naturalist and is extremely well known for his documentaries for the BBC.

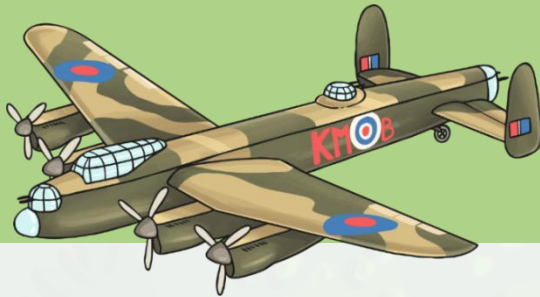
He is often referred to as a 'national treasure' in Britain and was knighted in 1985, earning him the title of Sir David Attenborough.

He has won many awards for his wildlife film-making and even has 15 species named after him.

Growing Up

Sir David Attenborough was born David Frederick Attenborough, on May 8th 1926, in London. His older brother is the actor (pictured on right), Lord Richard Attenborough, who has been in some well known films, such as 'The Great Escape' and 'Jurassic Park'.

David also had a younger brother and two sisters who were fostered by his parents during World War Two.



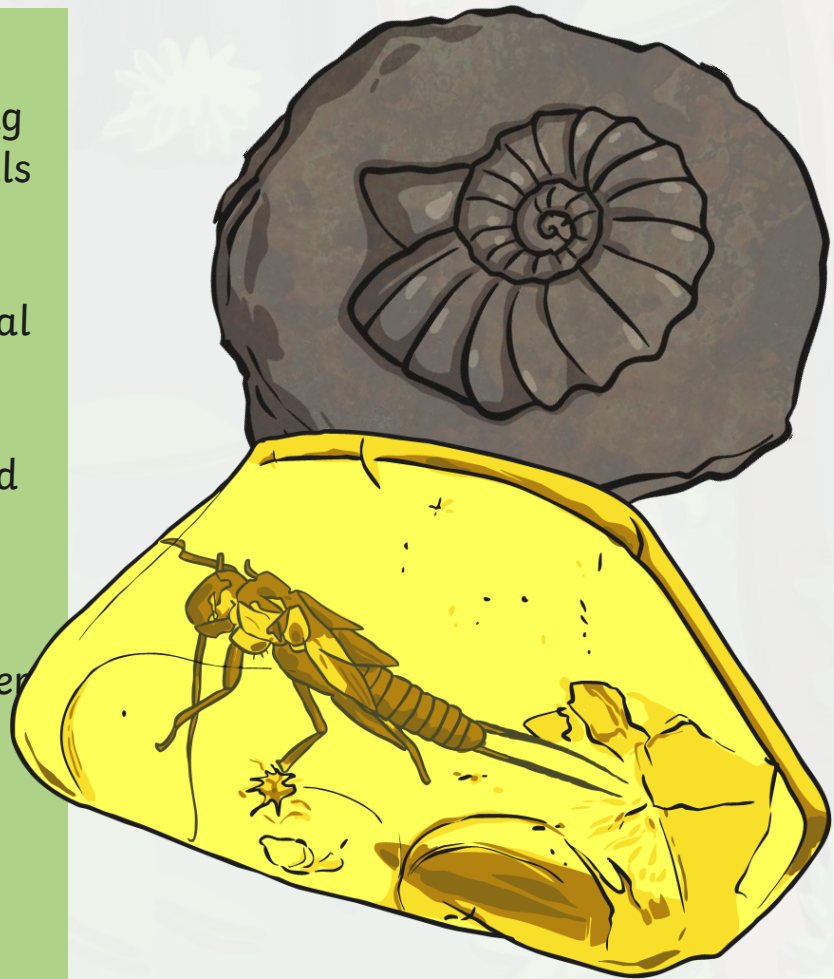
Studying and Service

From an early age, David had an interest in natural history. As a young boy, he had a large collection of fossils and stones.

1945 - He obtained a degree in Natural Sciences from Cambridge University.

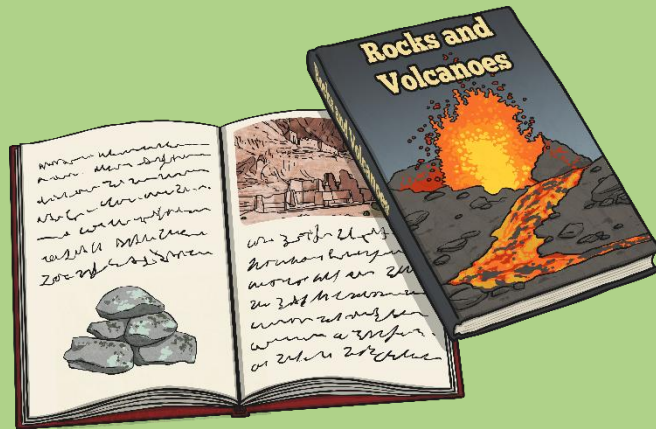
1947 - After leaving university, he had to complete two years of National Service in the Royal Navy.

1950 - He married Jane Oriel and later became a father to two children, Robert (who became a lecturer in bioanthropology) and Susan (who became a headteacher at a primary school).

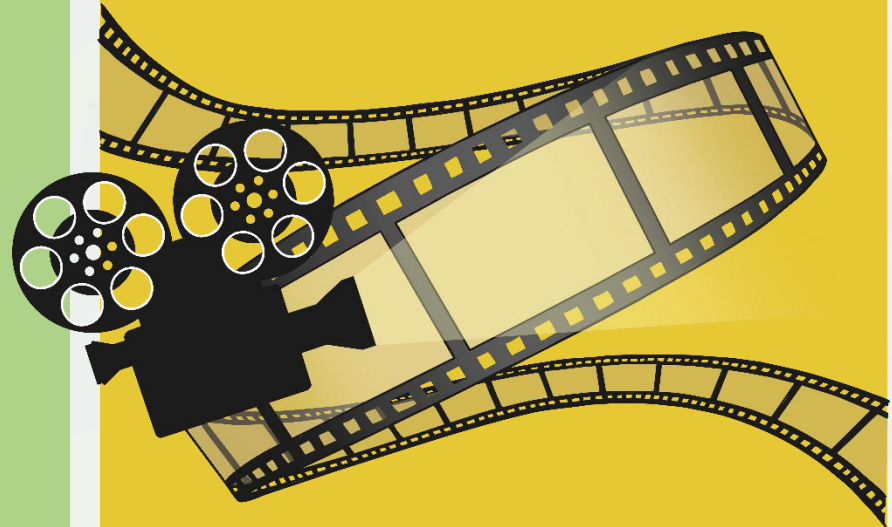


Working Life

1949 - After leaving the Navy, David edited children's science textbooks, where he was in charge of making sure the information was accurate.



1950 - Despite not owning a television (and only ever having seen one television programme himself!), he went on to train as a television producer for the BBC.



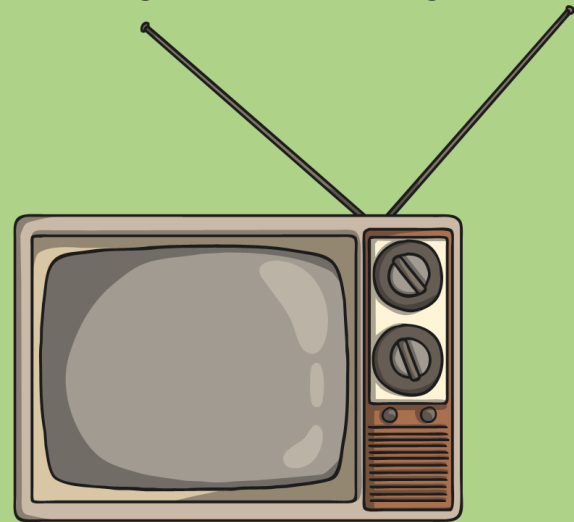
Working Life

1952 - David began to produce natural history programmes before returning to his studies.

1965 - He was offered the job of BBC Two Controller.

1969 - He later became the Director of Television Programming.

1972 – He left this job so he could work full-time writing and producing television programmes about natural history.



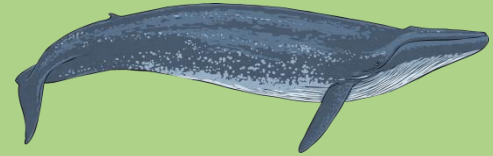
Famous Documentaries

Attenborough has been a huge part in the creation of over 20 documentaries. Some of the most well known are:



Life Series
(started in 1979)

The Life of Birds
(1998)



The Blue Planet
(2001)



Planet Earth (2006)



Frozen Planet (2011)

Supporting Others

Sir David Attenborough supports many charities including:

- **World Land Trust:** An international conservation charity which helps to save the rainforest and other habitats.
- **WWF:** This is the world's largest conservation organisation. Their motto is 'People living in harmony with nature'.
- **Cool Earth:** This charity protects rainforests to help in the fight against climate change.



New Species

In honour of the work that Sir David has done, some newly-discovered species have been named after him. Here are just a few examples:

- A species of the **Ecuadorian flowering-tree** (*Blakea Attenboroughi*);
- A **Madagascan ghost shrimp** (*Ctenocheloides Attenboroughi*);
- The millimetre-long **Attenborough's Goblin Spider** (pictured on right).



Working as an Author



Alongside making many natural history television programmes, Sir David has had many books published.

His 'Zoo Quest' series of books includes accounts of the animals he encountered on his expeditions around the world.



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