**Important Scientist Characteristics**

- Creativity and curiosity are very important, but anyone who asks questions is already being a scientist. Having a “prove it!” attitude and not believing everything you hear or read is also useful.

**Example of a simple research question I have tried to answer:** I have worked on mapping areas that are ecologically similar with regard to particular characteristics. One specific question I have asked is, “How are ecologically similar areas different when they are mapped?”

**Technology or equipment used in research:**

I use supercomputers, statistics, and large data sets, often gathered from satellites orbiting the Earth.

**Most Exciting Discovery**

- I have several favorite discoveries. I helped design and run a national “eye-in-the-sky” tool that detects forest disturbances every eight days. I also created a Web site that predicts how the home ranges of 215 tree species will shift with future climatic change.

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

- I knew I wanted to be a scientist by high school. By that time, I was doing a lot of noisy, messy science experiments at our home on a regular basis.

http://www.geobabble.org/~hnw