



# Meet the Scientist!



A  
silviculturist  
studies how  
to grow  
forests.

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<http://www.naturalinquirer.org>

<http://www.scienceinvestigator.org>

## Important Scientist Characteristics

★ Most important to my research is my desire to make what I do useful. Being able to apply the results and see a difference out in the world is aided by good listening skills and a creative approach to the work.

**Example of a simple research question I have tried to answer:** How do plants on the forest floor respond to different growing conditions caused by a variety of tree-cutting activities?

**Technology or equipment used in research:**  
I use computers to help me get a broad picture of conditions in the forest and to predict how things might change. I also use a special measuring tape to measure the diameters of trees in the forest.

## Most Exciting Discovery

Although some forest plants may be less common after a disturbance such as tree cutting, none disappear, and they all recover in a fairly short time as forest conditions return to what they were like before.

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

After college I spent several years doing other work. I made furniture and built houses. However, I wanted my career to include more intellectual activity, and being a scientist allows me to ask and answer more of the “why” and “how” questions I have.

<http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/people/mtwery>