



Meet the Scientist!



As a social scientist, I study anthropology. Anthropology is the study of people and their culture in both the past and present. My focus is environmental anthropology, which is the study of human relations with the natural environment.

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<http://www.naturalinquirer.org>

Important Scientist Characteristics:

As an anthropologist, it is important to be able to communicate with, and relate to, people of different cultures and backgrounds. An anthropologist often spends time living in other peoples' worlds to better understand them. To do this, I have the ability to adapt to many different situations.

Example of a simple research question I have tried to answer:

Is community forestry in the African countries of Guinea and Sierra Leone successful at protecting biodiversity while providing social and economic benefits to people?

Technology or equipment used in research:

An important piece of equipment that I use in my research is a voice recorder. To gather data, I interview people and ask them questions about the topic I am studying. I use a voice recorder to record the interviews. After the interviews, I use a computer to type what I recorded.

Most Exciting Discovery

I have researched natural resource use and management by many peoples, such as the Yup'ik of Alaska, the Kuna of Panama, and livestock keepers in Tanzania and the American West. I found that these groups share a desire to use natural resources in a way that supports a healthy environment and economy, and their culture.

When did you know you wanted to be a scientist?

I decided to become a scientist in my second year of college. I wanted to become a wildlife biologist so I could spend a lot of time outside. After college, I researched hunting, fishing, and gathering by Native Alaskans. That work introduced me to anthropology. I find people even more interesting than wildlife!

<http://www.fs.fed.us/pnw/about/programs/gsv/cfm.shtml>