



Meet the Scientist!



<http://www.naturalinquirer.org>



A social scientist in the USDA Forest Service studies what people think and do in relation to natural resources and the environment.

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Important Scientist Characteristics:

My best skill is my willingness to fail and try again. A lot of what we do in science doesn't work out on the first, second, or even tenth try. A good scientist isn't scared to be wrong, and they work on a problem until they get it right!

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

One big environmental issue is water pollution. People have an important role in keeping pollutants, like fertilizers and pesticides that are often used on lawns, out of streams, rivers, and lakes. One question I try to answer is: What alternatives to fertilizer and pesticides do people like when it comes to taking care of their lawns?

Technology or equipment used in research:

Important technologies when you are a scientist include specialized programs used to analyze data. Data can be numbers, words, pictures...almost anything! We use computer programs to take a lot of individual observations and make sense of them through statistics and other methods.

Most Exciting Project or Discovery

My most exciting project was working with a colleague at the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization in Rome to understand why farmers in Africa use Climate Smart Agriculture practices.

When did you know you wanted to be a scientist?

When I was in my senior year of college, I changed my major to general studies so I could take forestry classes, and then went on for my master's degree. Then I followed an opportunity to get my Ph.D., even though I hadn't planned on it.

<https://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/people/kfloress>