



# Meet the Scientist!

An entomologist  
is a scientist who studies  
insects.

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### Important Scientist Characteristics:

My curiosity, appreciation for nature, and willingness to work hard have contributed most to my work as a scientist. These qualities have helped me focus on research questions that I find most intriguing and do my best to answer these questions with care and determination.

### Example of a simple research question I have tried

**to answer:** How far can an invasive beetle species fly? This information helps other scientists manage these pests by predicting the new areas they're likely to invade.

### Technology or equipment used in research:

A flight mill is an apparatus that collects data on how far and fast insects can fly. The insects are attached to the flight mill, and they fly in circles while a computer program collects data on flight distance and speed.

### Most Exciting Discovery

My most exciting project was searching for natural enemies of the goldspotted oak borer, an invasive beetle. I traveled to different mountain ranges in southern Arizona to collect potential predators and parasitoids of this pest.

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

I wanted to become a scientist after visiting a rainforest for the first time. The plants and animals I encountered there were so spectacular, I just had to learn more about them! I was especially curious about how they became so well-adapted to their environment.

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