

Types of Scientists



A comprehensive list of science and engineering careers featured in Natural Inquirer publications.

Biological Scientist (A scientist who studies living organisms and living systems.)

- **Astacologist:** A scientist who studies crayfish.
- **Botanist:** A scientist who studies plants.
- **Conservation Biologist:** A scientist that studies wildlife populations and their relationships with their physical and living environment to identify what might cause populations to increase or decrease.
- **Dendrochronologist** (den drō krə nă lə jist): A scientist who studies tree rings.
- **Dendrologist:** A scientist who studies trees.
- **Ecophysiologicalist:** A scientist who studies the functioning of an organism and its relationship with the living and nonliving environment.
- **Entomologist** (en tə mǎ lə jist): A scientist who studies insects.
- **Fish Biologist** (fish bī ä lə jist): A scientist who studies fish and the processes that support fish.
- **Herpetologist** (hər pə tə lə jist): A person who studies reptiles and amphibians.
- **Ichthyologist:** A scientist who studies fish.
- **Limnologist:** A scientist who studies the physical, chemical, and biological characteristics of inland waters.
- **Medical Entomologist:** A scientist who studies medically important arthropods, including ticks, fleas, and mosquitos.
- **Microbiologist:** A scientist who studies microscopic organisms and these organisms live and interact with the environment.
- **Ornithologist** (ôr nə thă lə jist): A person who studies birds.

- **Plant Physiologist:** A scientist who studies how plants and fungi capture energy, grow, protect, and die.
- **Silviculturist:** A scientist studies the care and growth of forest and trees.
- **Wildlife Biologist:** A scientist who studies wildlife, including what they eat, how they reproduce, and how they use their habitat.
- **Zoologist:** A scientist who studies animal and animal life.

Environmental Science (A scientist who studies the physical and biological aspects of the environment.)

- **Aquatic Biogeochemist:** A scientist who studies the movement of chemical elements, such as carbon and nitrogen, through marine and freshwater aquatic ecosystems. These scientists also study how chemical elements relate to and become a part of living things over time.
- **Atmospheric Scientist:** A scientist who studies how the air behaves and how that behavior produces all the different types of weather.
- **Climate Adaptation Specialist:** A scientist who studies and promotes ways to change the management of ecosystems to address the challenges of a changing climate.
- **Climatologist:** A scientist who studies climate change, climate variation, and the effects of climate on Earth.
- **Earthquake Seismologist:** A scientist who studies earthquakes and the internal properties of earth.
- **Forester:** A scientist who studies forests, or is skilled in planting, managing, or caring for trees.
- **Forest Pathologist:** A scientist who studies the living and nonliving diseases affecting forest ecosystems.
- **Forestry Technician:** A scientist who studies woodland conditions and wildlife and the use of forest resources.
- **Hydrogeologist:** A scientist who studies the ways that groundwater (hydro) moves through the soil and rock of the earth (geology).
- **Hydrologist:** A scientist who studies water and the water cycle.

- **Landscape Architect:** A person who studies how the design, planning, and management of landscapes can provide a more harmonious fit between people and their environment.
- **Landscape Planner:** A person who studies the competing land uses while protecting natural processes and resources, and cultural resources.
- **Meteorologist:** A scientist who studies the atmosphere.
- **Soil Scientist:** A scientist who studies soils.

Ecologist (A person who studies the relationship between living things and their environment.)

- **Aquatic Ecologist:** A scientist who studies the relationship of species living in marine, stream, or lake environments with their living and nonliving environments.
- **Climate Ecologist:** A scientist who studies climates, the causes and long-term effects of variation in regional and global climates, as well as how climate affects the living and nonliving environment.
- **Coastal Ecologist:** A scientist who studies coastal processes, plants, and animals, and their interactions with the living and nonliving environment.
- **Fire Ecologist:** A scientist who studies the origins of wildland fire and its relationship to the living and nonliving environment.
- **Invasion Ecologist:** A scientist who studies the establishment, spread, and impact of invasive and nonnative species.
- **Landscape Ecologist:** A scientist who studies the relationships between ecological processes in the environment and particular ecosystems.
- **Landscape Fire Ecologist:** A scientist who studies how past and present forest fires spread across areas, how the fire impacts the forest, what trees begin to grow after first and; how surviving trees and the new vegetation influence how future fires spread.
- **Marine Ecologist:** A scientist who studies the relationship of species living in marine environments with their living and nonliving environments.
- **Plant Ecologist:** A scientist who studies the relationship of plants with one another and with their living and nonliving environment.

- **Quantitative Ecologist:** A scientist who applies statistical tools and mathematics to problems in ecology. Ecology is the study of the interactions of living things with each other and with the nonliving environment.
- **Riparian Ecologist:** A scientist who studies the areas around rivers and streams, known as riparian zones.
- **Restoration Ecologist:** A scientist who studies how to restore species that have experienced significant population decreases.
- **Systems Ecologist:** A scientist who studies ecological systems, especially ecosystems.
- **Terrestrial Ecologist:** A scientist who studies structure and function of global terrestrial ecosystems, their interactions with the atmosphere, and their role in major processes, such as the water cycle.
- **Tropical Ecologist:** A scientist who studies the relationships between the living and nonliving parts of the tropical environment.
- **Urban Ecologist:** A scientist who studies the relationship of living organisms with each other and their surroundings in an urban environment.
- **Vegetation Ecologist:** A scientist who studies the composition, structure, distribution, and dynamics of plants and their interaction with the environment.
- **Wetland Ecologist:** A scientist who studies wetlands, including plants and animals, and how they interact with their living and nonliving environment.
- **Wildlife Ecologist:** A scientist who studies the relationship of different kinds of wildlife with each other and with their living and nonliving environment.

Other

- **Anthropologist** (an(t) thra pä lə jist): A scientist who studies societies and cultures.
- **Archaeologist:** A scientist who studies human history, particularly the culture of historic and prehistoric people, through discovery and exploration of remains, structures and writings.
- **Chief Scientist:** A scientist who leads other scientists in a particular research area.

- **Economist/Resource Economist** (i kă nə mist): A scientist who studies economics. Economics is the study of the way goods, services, and wealth are measured, produced, distributed, and used.
- **Engineer**: A person who studies, designs, and/or builds complicated products, machines, systems, or structures.
- **Geneticist**: A scientist who studies genetics, which is the science of genes, heredity, and variation of organisms.
- **Geomorphologist**: A scientist who studies the physical features of the surface of Earth.
- **Geospatial Analyst**: A scientist who uses computers to study digital map data and relate these maps to vegetation on the ground.
- **Paleontologist**: A scientist who studies fossils and the rocks in which fossils occur, to understand how ancient organisms lived.
- **Plant Pathologist**: A scientist who studies plant diseases.
- **Policy Analyst**: A scientist who studies different policies to determine which policy will best help achieve an identified set of goals.
- **Social Scientist**: A scientist who studies the values, opinions, beliefs, attitudes, and actions of individuals and groups of people.
- **Statistician**: A scientist who uses statistical tools to design data collection plans, analyze data, graph data, and help solve real-world problems in business, engineering, the sciences, or other fields