

What Do Scientists Do?

Learning Objective:

To draw conclusions from careful observations.



Are you interested in animals?

What is your
favourite animal?

Have
you studied any
animals or habitats
before?



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A zoologist is a scientist interested in studying animals and their habitats. They will study animals in the wild as well as those which live in captivity.



Some zoologists will specialise in specific animals and become experts.

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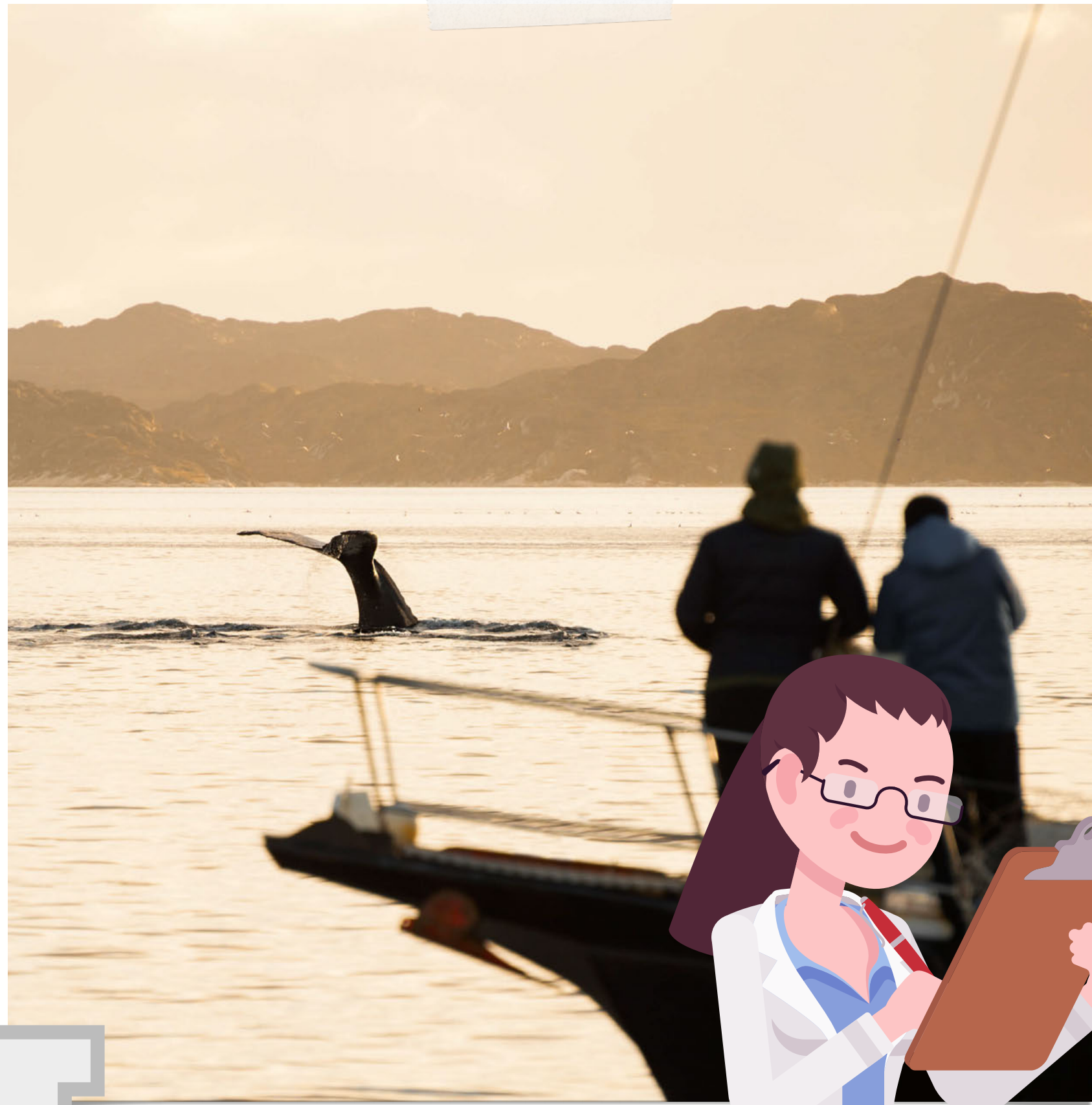
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A zoologist might work 'in the field'. This means they will travel the world to observe, photograph and research animals and their habitats.

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They might track migrations of birds or whales, or make observations of animals' behaviour or the differences between different species.

They need to record these observations clearly to share with other scientists.

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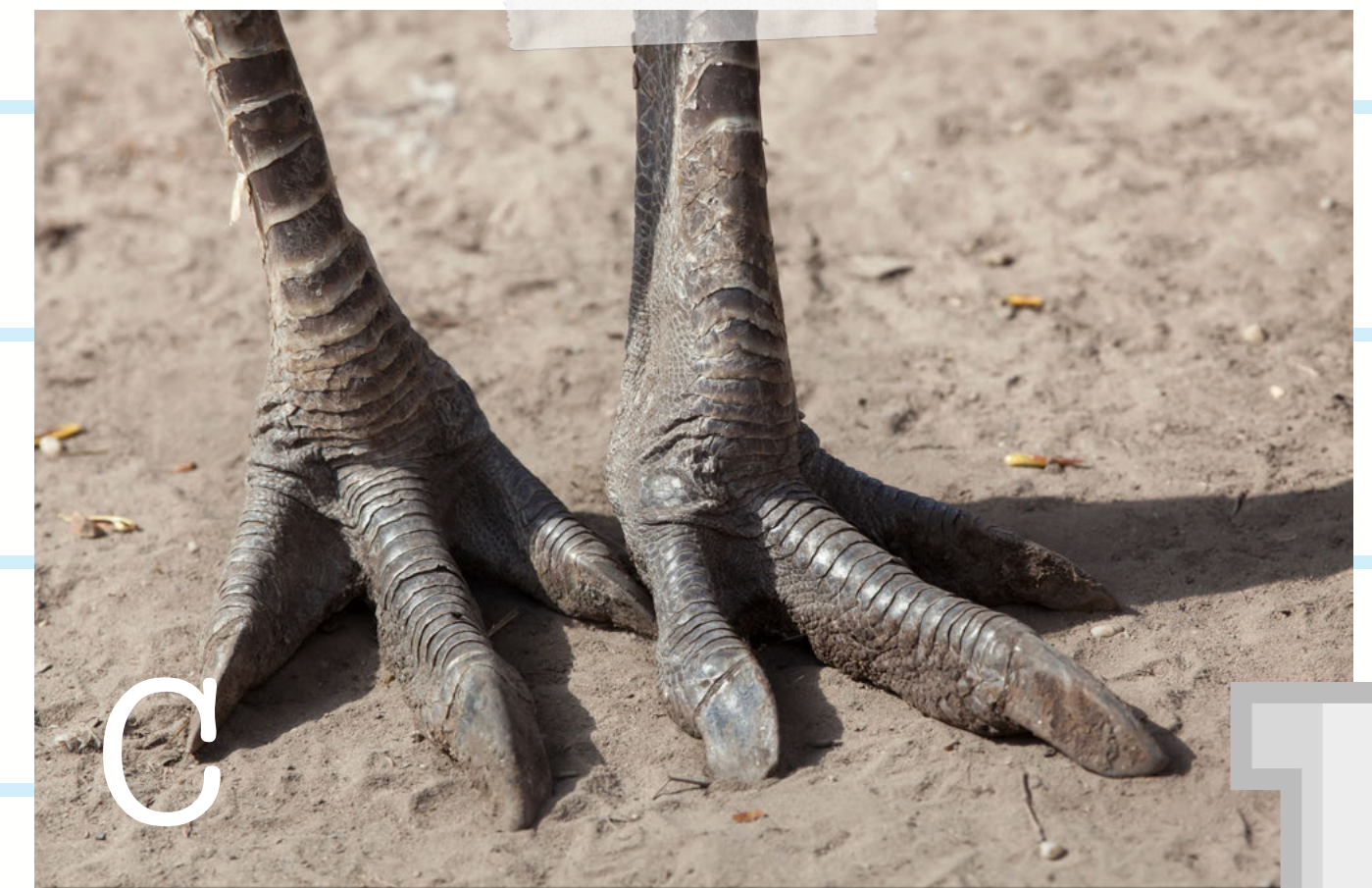
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Put your zoologist hats on...

Which bird do you think is a swimmer based on its feet?

How do you know? What observations are you making?

What could you say about the other birds in these pictures? What behaviours might they have?



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Duck



Eagle



Ostrich



A is the swimmer!
The webbing helps
push them easily
through the water.

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A zoologist's job might be to work with zoos, using their knowledge and understanding to design enclosures and enrichment activities for the animals that live there.

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The scientists want to make sure that animals in captivity, like zoo animals, are happy, healthy and leading lives like they would do in the wild. They will observe natural behaviours in the wild to help them with their designs.



Chimpanzees are very sociable, intelligent animals who love to climb. What kind of enclosure might they need?

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A chimpanzee's enclosure should be designed with lots of things to climb and swing from. They can also get bored easily. To keep them happy, their food can be hidden around the enclosure or put into simple puzzle boxes to help stimulate natural behaviours like termite digging.



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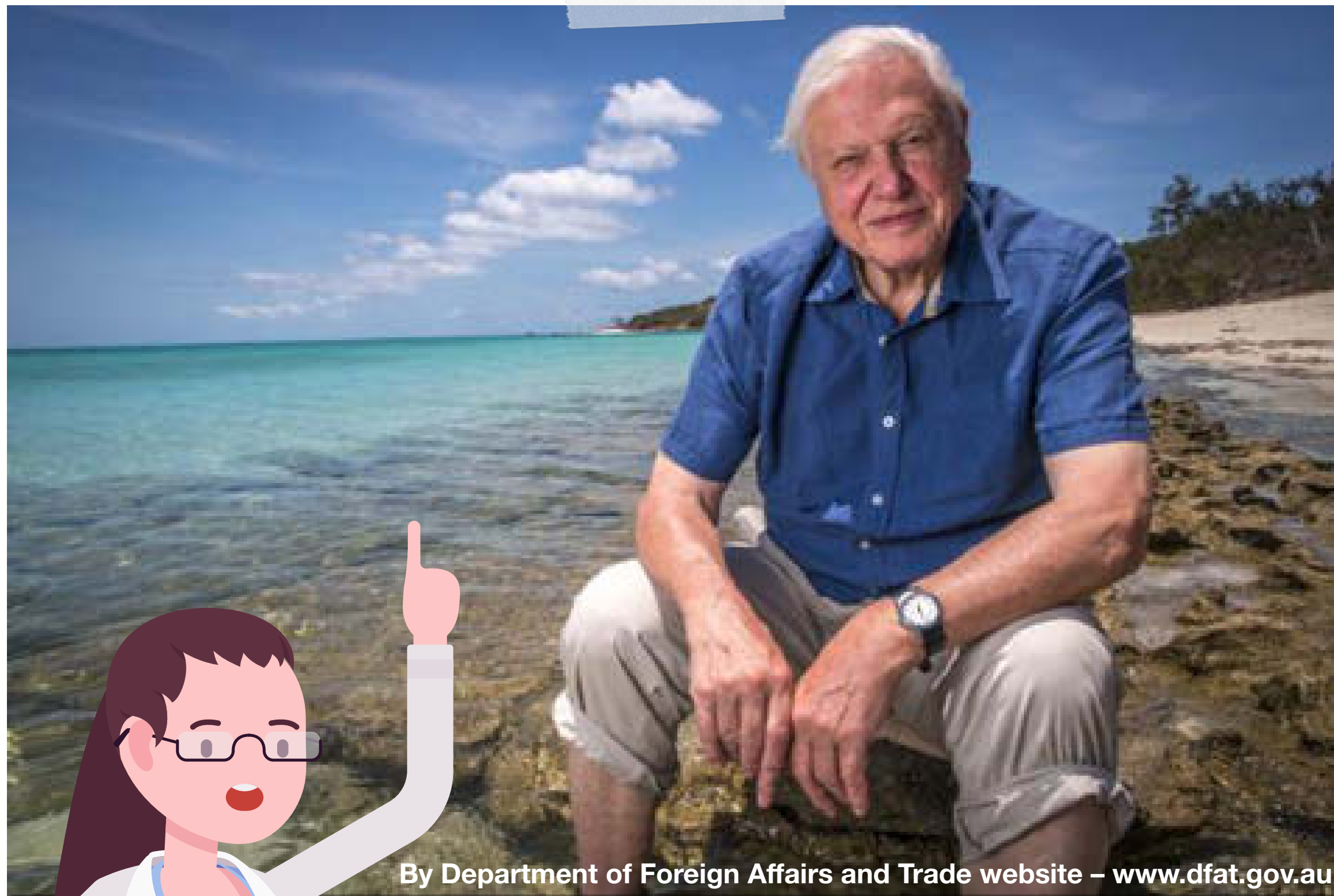


Do you know any famous zoologists?

What sort of animals did they work with?

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By Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website – www.dfat.gov.au

Sir David
Attenborough studied
zoology at university
before becoming a BBC
presenter.

He has narrated lots of TV shows
about nature and animals. Have
you ever seen one?

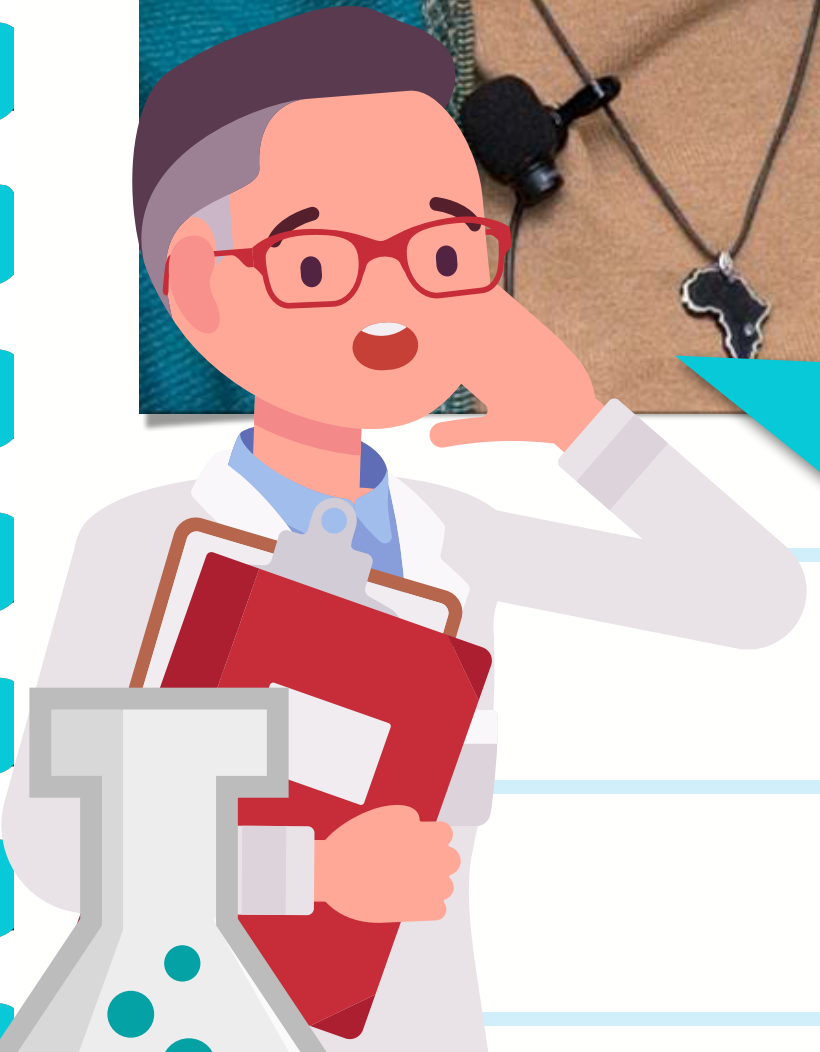
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Dame Jane Goodall is famous for her observations and research into chimpanzees' behaviours. Her study lasted over 50 years and changed the way we think about animals' societies, emotions and behaviour.

She recorded observations of a chimpanzee using a twig as a tool to fish termites from their nests to eat.



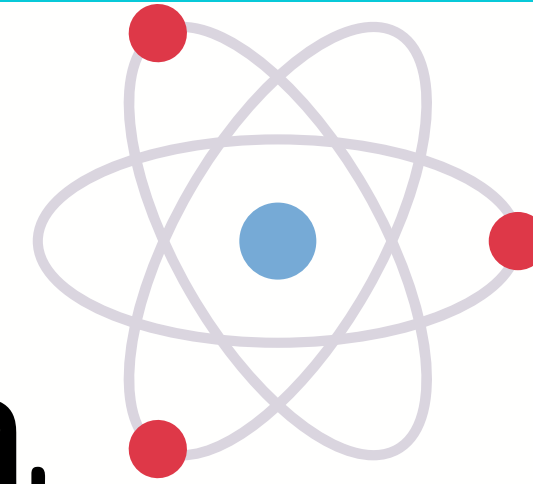
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Plenary

How have you been a
scientist today?



Did you use
the
scientific
method in
any way?

What
scientific
skills or
qualities did
you use?

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