

FAQs for Primary School students

*With contributions from the Year 6 and Year 7 classes,
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<http://kangaroo.genomics.org.au>

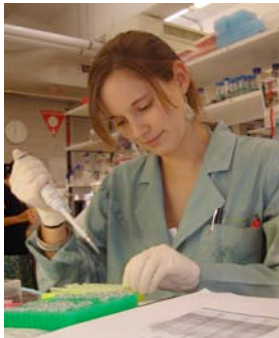
CAREERS IN ZOOLOGY

This is not about my project, but can you tell me some things a zoologist does all day? Do they always work outdoors? Do zoos hire zoologists? Do you do work in a lab?

According to the Oxford Dictionary, zoology is the scientific study of the behaviour, structure, physiology, classification, and distribution of animals. So a zoologist is a biological scientist who studies all such things relating to animals. Such a



broad definition of zoology is actually quite good news for a zoologist, because it means that there are always so many things to research, that your chances of become bored are very low indeed! Being a zoologist is great because it means that you have the chance to spend time outdoors on field trips studying your animals in their natural habitats.



Many zoologists also spend a lot of time in their laboratories doing further experiments, in which they examine specialised animal structures, processes, and behaviours. This may include working with microscopes, or extracting and analysing the DNA from an animal. Like all research scientists, zoologists collect and generate a lot of data, which needs to be analysed fully. Often, this can mean spending time on the computer, doing things such as plotting graphs to help visualise the data.

Zoologists can find jobs in all sorts of different organizations and environments. Yes, some zoologists find work in zoos, but there are many other places where zoologists work: museums, aquariums, animal conservation, wildlife management, agriculture, the parks industry, departments of natural resources, teaching, research, journalism, natural history film-making, and as government advisors, just to name a few!

There are some examples and more detailed information about careers in zoology on the website of the Department of Zoology, University of Melbourne:

<http://www.zoology.unimelb.edu.au/careers/>

