Sir David Attenborough – Naturalist and Presenter

As the world's most famous naturalist, Sir David Attenborough has brought amazing wildlife to television screens for over 50 years. From series such as Life on Earth to Frozen Planet, his documentaries have inspired generations to learn more about the natural world.

Early Years

Born in 1926, David Frederick Attenborough into a well-off family with two brothers, John and Richard. During World War II, his parents took in two Jewish girls who had fled the Nazis and they were treated like family. His brother Richard went on to great success as an actor and film-maker, starring in Hollywood blockbuster films such as Jurassic Park.

David became fascinated by natural history in his early childhood. In fact, by the age of seven he had already created his very own "museum" of bird eggs, old stamps and ancient fossils.

University and Early Career

After school, David studied natural sciences at Cambridge, but was reluctant to become an academic, disliking the idea of being stuck in labs and lecture theatres all his life. On finishing his studies, David joined the Royal Navy hoping to see the world, but didn't get very far; he was posted to North Wales and Scotland.

Family

In 1950 Attenborough married Jane Elizabeth Ebsworth Oriel; she died in 1997. The couple had two children, Robert and Susan. Robert is a senior lecturer in *bioanthropology* for the School of Archaeology and Anthropology at the Australian National University in Canberra.

1. When was David Attenborough born? **[1]**

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2. How many siblings did he have? **[1]**

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3. What did his brother Richard do when he grew up that made him famous? **[2]**

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4. What kind of family did David grow up in? **[2]**

5. *In fact, by the age of seven he had already created his very own "museum" of bird eggs, old stamps and ancient fossils.*

    a) What does this tell us about David as a boy? **[1]**

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    b) Why is the word museum in inverted commas? **[1]**

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