

# David Attenborough



**Name:**

Sir David Frederick Attenborough

**Dates:** Born  
8<sup>th</sup> May 1926

**Place of Birth:**

Isleworth, West  
London, UK

**Famous For:**

Being a natural  
historian and  
veteran broadcaster  
as well as being  
a prominent  
environmentalist  
and climate change  
campaigner.

Illustrated by: Mikyo Noh

## Early Life:

As a child, David developed a fascination with the natural world and animals and, by the age of seven, had gathered an impressive collection of birds' eggs and fossils. Once he had finished school, David was awarded a scholarship to study natural sciences at the prestigious University of Cambridge. After graduating in 1947, David was enlisted to serve two years of national service in the Royal Navy. He spent this time on a ship in North Wales and did not get to see the world as he had hoped.

When David returned to London, he started working as an editor for an educational publisher. Shortly after, he began a training programme with the BBC and started working as a producer for the television station in 1952. This was the beginning of his remarkable career in television.

## Broadcasting Career:

In 1954, David launched a series entitled 'Zoo Quest'. The series filmed animals both in captivity and the wild, enabling viewers to see animals in their natural habitat in sometimes far off and exotic locations. David left the BBC to study social anthropology (the study of how communities of people live and develop in different parts of the world) at the London School of Economics. In 1965, he was asked to return to the BBC.

Here, he worked as both controller and director of programming, where he continued to bring viewers fascinating and educational programmes about nature and history. However, in order to pursue his interests and work independently, David resigned once again from the BBC in 1972.



At this point, he began to write and produce for TV independently as a freelancer. The most successful of all his programmes was 'Life on Earth', which first aired in 1976. 'Life on Earth' was a series of 96 episodes that explored wildlife and the evolution of nature around the world. At the height of its popularity, around 500 million people tuned in to watch the show. More recently, David's 'Planet Earth' has become the biggest wildlife documentary ever made and was the first show to air in HD (high definition) on the BBC.

### Campaign for Climate Change:



Many of David's recent programmes talk about the damage that humans are doing to our planet, the effects of plastic pollution and other environmental issues. He works hard to encourage people to look after our Earth and the plants and animals that depend on it.

Many of David's programmes, in particular those produced more recently, have focused on humans' impact on the natural world. He is the UK ambassador for the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) and was a key speaker at the COP26 Climate Change Conference, where he urged world leaders to take action in the fight against climate change.