

SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH

A naturalist who brought the whole world into our homes

Ever since he was a little boy, David was always fascinated by nature. Born in England in 1926, he had quite a collection of fossils and would disappear for weeks looking for new ones. He was given a salamander at 8, which started his lifelong animal family: from chameleons, pythons, hummingbirds, and gibbons to lemurs, chimpanzees, and bush babies!

When David joined the British Broadcasting Corporation (the BBC) in 1952, like most people at the time, he didn't have a TV and had only ever seen one TV show. But still...

He made some **AMAZING** documentaries. *Life on Earth* (1979) had over 500 million viewers. BBC's *Wildlife on One* ran for 28 years from 1977-2005! *Planet Earth* (2006) was the biggest wildlife documentary **EVER**.

He changed the face of television.

David produced the *Zoo Quest* series, which - for the first time - filmed animals in the wild and in zoos, rather than in the studio. At first, he was kept off the screen (because his boss thought his teeth were too big!) but when the presenter dropped out, David stepped in... and he was a natural.

He's one of the most travelled human beings in history (if you don't count astronauts!)

He travelled 256,000 miles for his *The Life of Birds* documentary. That's like travelling around the world - **10 TIMES**.

He's been bitten by a python, charged by a rhino, and cuddled by mountain gorillas!

Always keep a respectful distance...

THE PEOPLE HAVE VOTED!

2018 UK poll
The most trustworthy public figure

2018 UK poll
Ultimate dream neighbour

He's woken up the world to many important issues like climate change and plastic pollution. His documentary *Blue Planet II* (2017) inspired people all over the globe to reduce their use of plastics after showing how much harm they cause - Queen Elizabeth was also inspired!

No more plastic straws or bottles at Buckingham Palace!

"The future of humanity, and, indeed, all life on Earth, now depends on us."



Comprehension Questions

- 1) What has David been fascinated about 'ever since he was a boy'?**
- 2) What organisation did he join in 1952?**
- 3) Which of David's TV documentaries was 'the biggest wildlife documentary EVER'?**
- 4) What can you infer about David's passions from what you read on these pages? What do you think they are?**
- 5) Can you list at least two important issues that David Attenborough has 'woken up the world to'?**