

Biology Careers Lesson Plan

This lesson explains to students the variety of careers available in biology. It explores courses, career pathways and skills that could be developed as students continue their studies in biology beyond school. The lesson plan can be used for PSHE or science lessons, and accompanies the **Teachers' Biology Careers Lesson Presentation**. Both plan and presentation are available for you to download and modify.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the lesson, students will:

- Have explored a variety of biology careers
- Understand how to access careers information provided by the Royal Society of Biology

Resources

- A3/A4 paper and coloured pens for making career profile cards
- Paper and pens for writing notes
- Photocopies of **Biologist Bingo** answer card and question sheet

Your students will need printed copies or internet access to:

- [Make a Difference](#) posters
- [Spotlight on the Life Sciences](#)
- [Becoming a Biologist](#)
- [Technician careers profiles](#)

Internet access to:

- [Make a Difference](#) website
- [Biology Changing the World](#) website

Teaching activities

STARTER

1. Working alone or in pairs, ask students to think of answers for the following questions:

- *What is a biologist?*
- *What biology careers can you think of?*
- *What might you study?*
- *What skills might you develop?*

Discuss students' answers as a class.

Example answers can be found in the **Teachers' Biology Careers Lesson Presentation**. Help define any of the job titles, courses and skills in the presentation which students are not aware of.

MAIN ACTIVITIES

2. Ask students to explore the **Make a Difference** posters and website as well as the **Spotlight on the Life Sciences** booklet. Let students identify career paths biologists might take, including workplaces, job titles and courses.

Working alone or in groups, ask students to produce their own career profile card or 30-second pitch for a biology career using **Make a Difference** posters/website and **Spotlight** booklet. They may choose a career listed in the **Teachers' Biology Careers Lesson Presentation** or one they thought of in the Starter activity.

Some ideas to research and include in either a career profile card or pitch:

- Job title/area
- What to study? (e.g. degree, diploma)
- Skills needed and developed
- Day-to-day activities (i.e. duties and responsibilities)
- Workplaces
- How does their work make a difference?

Ask students to present their career profile card/pitches to the rest of the class.

3. Ask students to explore the **Becoming a Biologist** booklet, and find out about applying to study biology beyond school.

Play **Biologist Bingo** to test students' knowledge gained from reading the booklet about degrees, their alternatives and work experience. Ask students to cross off answers from the bingo card as you read out the questions.

After completing the above activities, summarise with students the further support that is available from the Royal Society of Biology. You may wish to use these resources for extension or homework activities.

- **Technician careers profiles** – includes profiles of technicians and research assistants working in different areas of biology.

PLENARY

4. Introduce students to online resource, **Biology Changing the World**. (Students may wish to explore the website in their own time.)

Ask students to watch the video from website featuring Sir David Attenborough.

Discuss as a class answers to the following questions:

- *What inspired Sir David to study biology?*
- *Which biologist from the past does he most like to meet?*
- *What advice does he give to biologists who want to follow a career in science communication?*
- *Which moments in his career does Sir David find memorable?*