

Module 01 Lesson 03

Video: Who are Scientists?

Transcript

Part 1

Narrator says "Hi, I'm Tyrone and I want to welcome you to this course. Firstly I apologize for the accent but I grew up in South Africa, and through my studies and work as a marine biologist I have been fortunate to live and work in a number of countries worldwide. Prior to moving to Happy Valley, I was working on the Great Barrier Reef in Australia - hence the hybrid accent that I now have.

As you have read, despite the fact that science is and will continue to be part of our daily lives, reports show that only 28% of American adults qualified as being scientifically literate in 2007. This course is hoped to avoid you ending up as just another one of these statistics, and at the same time you will hopefully find this course interesting, engaging, and somewhat fun.

So let's dive in and take a closer look at science.

You may have the Hollywood view of scientists being crazy people in lab coats. Well while this may be true of some scientists, most of them are normal people. In fact, if you have never met a scientist before, you have now. Yes, I am a scientist! And so are you!

Humans are inheritably curious and you have no doubt asked yourself how things work or why things are the way they are. Perhaps questions such as:

- What makes a rainbow?
- Where do bees go in the winter?
- Do free-range chickens taste better than caged chickens?
- Why do I get a headache after drinking too much beer?
- Is Advil or Excedrin more effective at curing my headache?

Finding answers to these questions or explaining how things work requires methodical, objective, and rational observation and analysis. The good news is that you do not need a science degree to be able to do this. We as humans have a big brain that enables us to do this and it is what sets us apart from other species."

Part 2

Narrator says "So if meeting me is not enough, lets meet a few other scientists so you can not only see that they are normal people but get an appreciation for the various places science can take you."

Narrator says "Tyrone Ridgway - Marine Biologist. What do you do?"

Narrator says "I am a Marine Biologist working on coral reefs. More specifically I look at the relatedness of reefs to get an understanding of the connections between different reef systems, which is important as we try to get a handle on the changes coral reefs are facing in the face of climate change. I also teach numerous Study Abroad Programs on Australia's Great Barrier Reef."

Narrator says "What is science to you?"

Narrator says "Science to me is a number of things. It is a way of life, a great way to approach and address problems, as well as a great way to educate. All in all, science is powerful and fun."

Narrator says "You are happiest when?"

Narrator says "I am in the ocean."