

DAVID ATTENBOROUGH BIRTHDAY - IDEAS BANK

A continuous collection of classroom and whole school ideas to explore the life, work and environmental message of Sir David Attenborough. Suitable across primary and secondary phases.

About David Attenborough

- Born 8 May 1926
- Naturalist, broadcaster and environmental advocate
- Known for documentaries such as Planet Earth, Blue Planet and Our Planet
- His message often focuses on protecting the natural world and understanding our impact on it

Whole School / All Through Ideas

- Watch a short clip from a David Attenborough documentary and discuss the main message
- Identify the evidence he uses to explain environmental issues
- Write a short narration in the style of a nature documentary
- Create a whole school challenge focused on helping nature
- Develop a class pledge about protecting the environment
- Display student work around the school linked to environmental themes
- Reflect on quotes from David Attenborough and explain their meaning
- Link his message to real world environmental issues

Primary Ideas

- Go on a nature walk and record what students observe in the local environment
- Create animal fact files including habitat, diet and interesting facts
- Build simple food chains using drawings or cards
- Discuss what happens if one part of a food chain disappears
- Narrate playground or classroom scenes as if they are wildlife documentaries
- Create posters about endangered animals
- Keep a class wildlife observation diary
- Design a simple plan for how the school could help nature

Secondary Ideas

- Debate whether humans can still reverse biodiversity loss
- Explore different perspectives such as scientists, governments and communities
- Analyse a documentary clip and evaluate how language and imagery influence the viewer
- Investigate environmental issues such as plastic pollution, climate change or food waste
- Conduct a biodiversity survey of the school grounds or local area
- Identify human impact and suggest improvements
- Create an environmental awareness campaign
- Analyse real environmental data and present findings using graphs

Cross Curricular Links

- Science, ecosystems, biodiversity and climate change
- Geography, sustainability and human impact on environments
- English, persuasive writing and documentary narration
- Art, nature themed artwork and environmental messaging
- Maths, analysing environmental data and trends
- Citizenship, responsibility and global environmental action