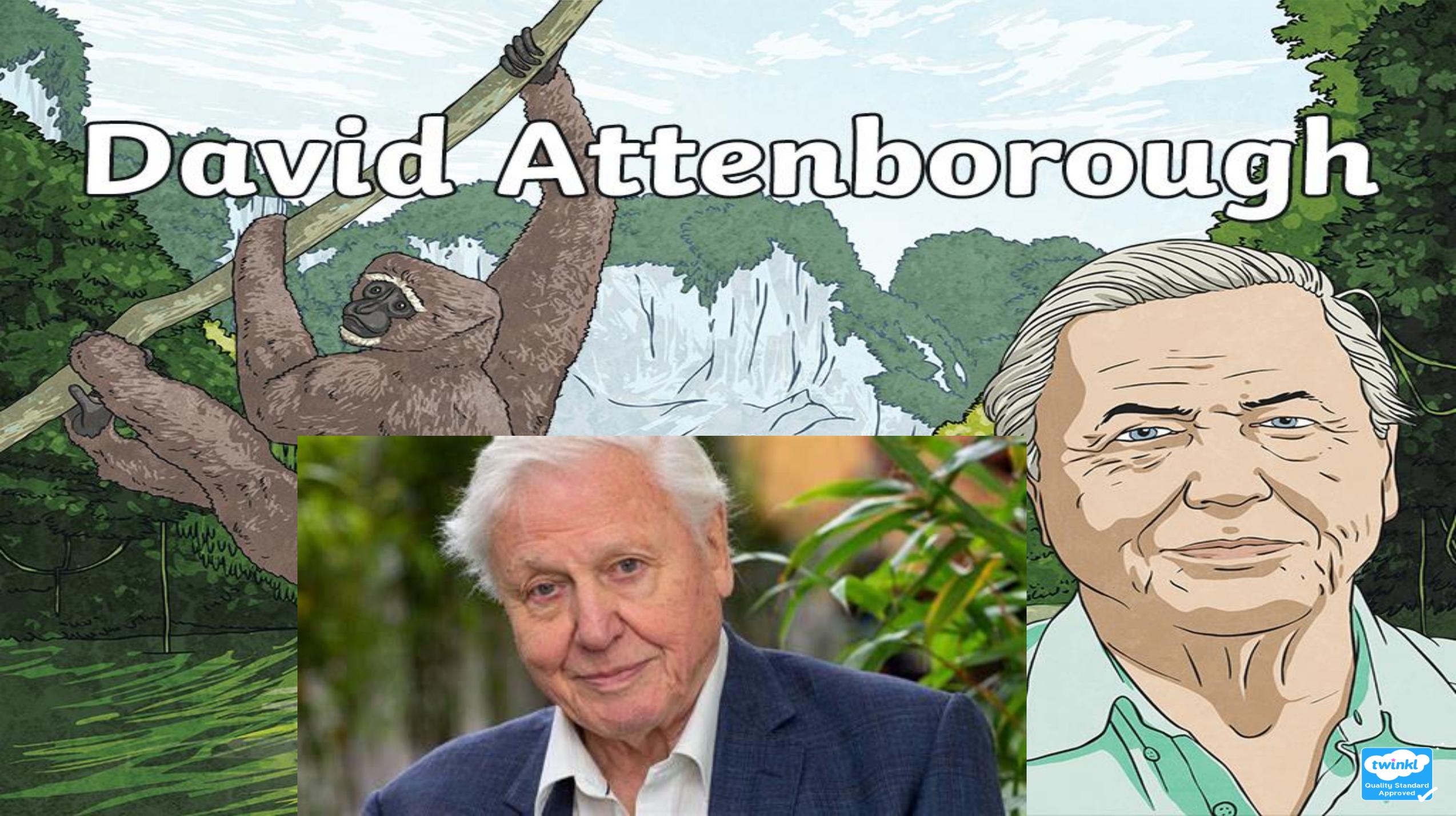


# David Attenborough



Describe the life and work of David Attenborough.

## Success Criteria

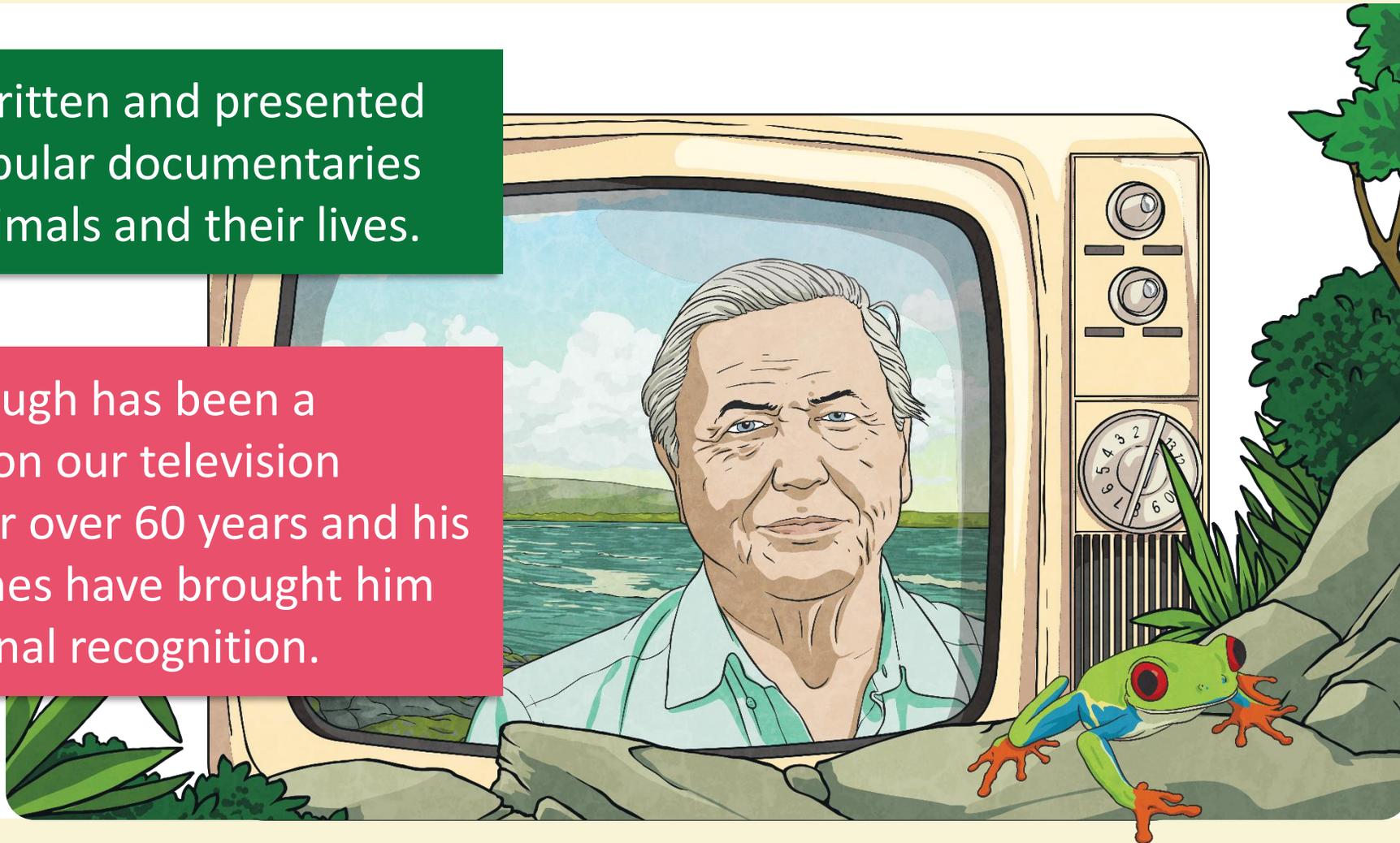
- I can answer questions about David Attenborough's life.
- I can identify how David Attenborough describes animals in his documentaries.
- I can create my own documentary inspired by David Attenborough's work.

# Life on Film

David Attenborough is a wildlife film-maker and naturalist. This means he is a scientist who studies animals and their behaviour.

He has written and presented many popular documentaries about animals and their lives.

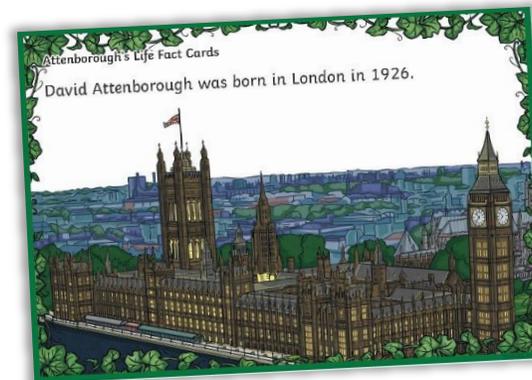
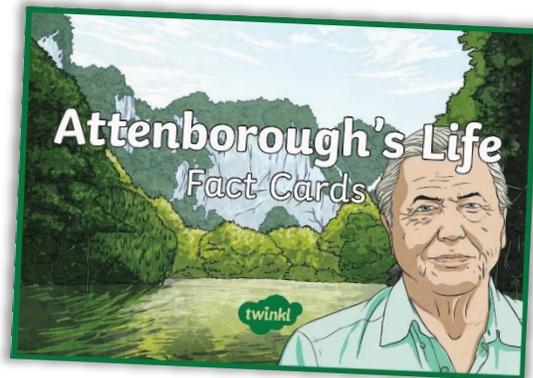
Attenborough has been a presence on our television screens for over 60 years and his programmes have brought him international recognition.



# Attenborough's Life

## TASK 1: Play this game to find out more about David Attenborough's life and work.

Your Attenborough's Life Activity Sheets (next pages) have 12 questions about David Attenborough's life up to the broadcast of his first famous documentary. You need to find the answers to these questions using the fact cards attached separately.





Early Life

When and where was David Attenborough born?

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What did Attenborough collect as a child?

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Family Life

What did Attenborough's family do during the Second World War?

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How many brothers does Attenborough have, and what are their names?

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Who did Attenborough marry, and when?

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What job did David Attenborough's older brother have?

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Education and Work

Where did Attenborough go to university, and what did he study there?

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How long did Attenborough spend in the Royal Navy?

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How many television programmes had Attenborough seen before he started to work at the BBC?

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What was the name of the first programme presented by Attenborough?

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When did Attenborough become controller of BBC2, and why did he eventually resign?

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When was Attenborough's 'Life on Earth' series broadcast?

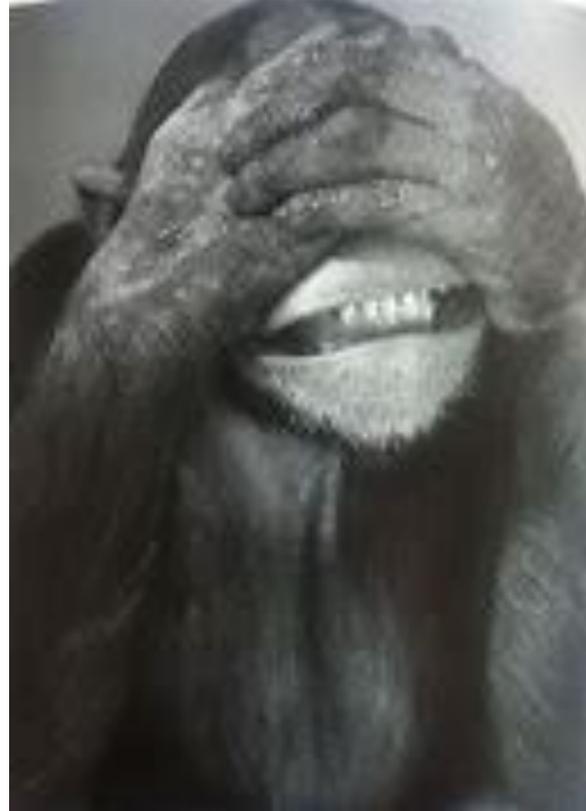
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ANSWERS . . .



## Early Life

When and where was David Attenborough born?

*David Attenborough was born in London in 1926.*

What did Attenborough collect as a child?

*Attenborough loved collecting fossils, stones and other natural specimens. He displayed these in a 'museum' he created.*

## Family Life

What did Attenborough's family do during the Second World War?

*During the Second World War, Attenborough's family adopted two Jewish refugee girls from Europe.*

How many brothers does Attenborough have, and what are their names?

*Attenborough has two brothers. The oldest is Richard, David is the middle brother and John is the youngest.*

Who did Attenborough marry, and when?

*Attenborough married Jane Elizabeth Ebsworth Oriel in 1950.*

What job did David Attenborough's older brother have?

*David Attenborough's brother Richard was an actor.*

## Education and Work

Where did Attenborough go to university, and what did he study there?

*Attenborough won a scholarship to Cambridge University in 1945. He studied geology and zoology, and achieved a degree in natural sciences.*

How long did Attenborough spend in the Royal Navy?

*In 1947, Attenborough was called up for two years' national service in the Royal Navy.*

How many television programmes had Attenborough seen before he started to work at the BBC?

*In 1952, when Attenborough started to work at the BBC, he had only ever seen one television programme.*

What was the name of the first programme presented by Attenborough?

*The first programme that Attenborough presented was called 'Animal Patterns'.*

When did Attenborough become controller of BBC2, and why did he eventually resign?

*Attenborough became controller of BBC2 in 1965. He did not like the fact that he couldn't make many programmes himself while in this job, and he resigned in 1971.*

When was Attenborough's 'Life on Earth' series broadcast?

*Attenborough's famous documentary series 'Life on Earth' was broadcast in 1979.*

# Attenborough's Life

After Attenborough's series 'Life on Earth' was broadcast in 1979, he went on to write and make many other series. These include over 250 episodes of 'Wildlife on One', 'The Natural World', 'Life in the Freezer' and 'Planet Earth'.

He is still working on new documentaries now.

Did you manage to find all 12 answers?





## Wildlife Documentary

You are going to be a wildlife filmmaker like David Attenborough!

Choose an animal from the options on the next slide and use the Internet or books to find out about it. Think about what type of animal it is, where it lives and its behaviour. Use the next few slides to gather and organise the facts you need.



# Wildlife Documentary

First:

Choose an animal from the following options

gorilla	platypus	dolphin	snake	mayfly
				

# Second:

Research your chosen animal and complete these boxes with your notes.

What type of animal (mammal, insect or reptile) is it? What characteristics of this animal type does it have?

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Where does it live? Find information on the country and its habitat, as well as how the animal is suited to its habitat.

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What does it eat? How does it find its food?

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Give four interesting facts about the animal.

1. 

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2. 

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3. 

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4. 

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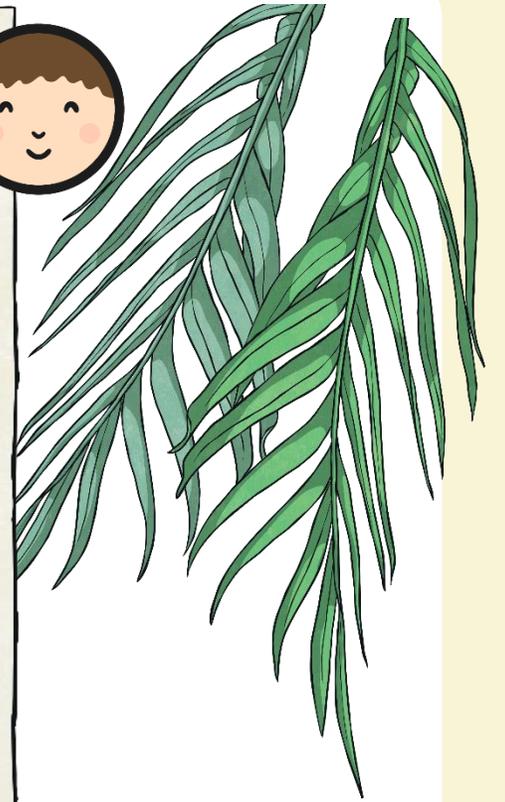
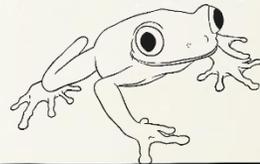
## WILDLIFE DOCUMENTARY



Once you have collected your information, use it to write a short script. Help is on the NEXT PAGE

If you can, perform your documentary to an audience. (OPTIONAL)

You may be able to perform it alongside a clip of your chosen animal from one of Attenborough's films.



## Finally: Write your documentary script

**Introduction:** Tell your viewers which animal your documentary is about, explain what type of animal it is and the characteristics it has.

**Part 1:** Explain where the animal lives and what it is like there.

**Part 2:** Explain what the animal eats and how it finds its food.

**Part 3:** Give any more interesting facts about the animal.

**Conclusion** and thank your viewers for watching.

## OPTIONAL: Performance

Now that you have written your script, it is time to present your documentary!

Try to act as confidently and speak as clearly as David Attenborough.



# Evaluation

Are you pleased with how you performed your documentary?

What went well?

What would you have liked to improve?

Talk to someone about your thoughts.

