

## David Attenborough: Fact File

Early/Personal life - David Frederick Attenborough was born on May 8th 1926, in Isleworth - West London. He was the second born child to Frederick and Mary Attenborough, David had 2 brothers, John and Richard. Also David's parents fostered two Jewish refugee girls called Irene and Helga. Whilst David was born in London he grew up in Leicester. As a boy David went to Wyggeston boys Grammar school, later on he won a scholarship to study geology and zoology at The Clare College in Cambridge.



## Career -

In 1947 David was called to serve in the Navy, where he spent 2 years based in North Wales. After leaving the Navy David married his wife Jane Oriel, together they had 2 children - Robert and Susan.





After leaving the Navy David took a job editing children's science books before starting a job with the BBC as a trainee producer in 1952. David was initially rejected by the BBC in 1950. David got his first credits on television with a short film called Coelacanth, a film about a living fossil.

From 1954-1963 David wrote, produced and presented the show Zoo Quest which aired for 7 series. After that followed many more series 1960 - Travellers Tales and Adventure 1960 - The people of paradise - 1963 - Attenborough and Animals - 1965 - Appointed controller of the new channel bbc 2 - 1967 - Promoted to BBC director of programmes - 1973 - Resigns from full time

position to return to filmmaking. Films Eastward with Attenborough.

In 1979 Life on Earth aired. Did you know that the show took 4 years of research and filming before it was ready for television!

In 1985 Attenborough was awarded a knighthood for his services to broadcasting.



David's career spanned over 7 decades, he made many many programmes/series including : Our Planet

Planet Earth

Seven Worlds One Planet

Blue Planet

Frozen Planet

Horizon.

Achievements and awards - David's list of achievements are endless here are just some of them!

1970 - BAFTA Desmond Davies award

1981 - Kalinga prize for the popularization of science

2000 - RSPB Medal

2004 - Jose Vasconcelos World Award of Education

2010 - Fonseca Prize

2015 - individual Peabody Award

2018 - Primetime Emmy Award for outstanding narrator

2019 - Landscape institution medal for lifetime achievement.

Did you know that by January 2013 David had collected 32 honorary degrees from British Universities ( More than any other person )

Did you also know that David has had species name after him.....how cool is that! Here are some -

Prethopalpus Attenborough

Sitana Attenborough

Trigonopterus Attenborough

Ascisoma Attenborough



Sir David Attenborough - “ I just wish the world was twice as big and half of it was still unexplored “

