

Science careers for primary

Skills card sort

Available from: rsc.li/3lp3ER2

What skills do you think these scientists need to do their job?



Science teacher



Science teachers help students learn the facts and skills they need to solve problems. A science teacher might work in a school, college or university, sharing their knowledge with students. Teachers help students learn the facts and skills they need to solve problems. A teacher likes working with young people and usually has specialist knowledge about a particular subject, such as engines or animals.



Veterinary nurse



A veterinary nurse assists in the care of animal patients, helps the veterinarian during operations and cleans surgical instruments when the operation is over. A veterinary nurse loves all kinds of animals and is interested in keeping animals healthy.



Palaeontologist

A palaeontologist studies fossils to find out about the history of life on Earth. They excavate, clean and study fossils. They might work in a laboratory or outside, sometimes in difficult conditions.



Food scientist



A food scientist designs and makes new food products, or they may analyse food to make sure nutritional food labels are accurate. A food scientist is interested in taste, texture, nutrition and safety of food and in how different ingredients behave when they are cooked or frozen.



Structural engineer



A structural engineer designs structures such as buildings and bridges using computer technology. They need to have a good knowledge of maths and physics to understand the forces on a structure and to be able to make it strong.



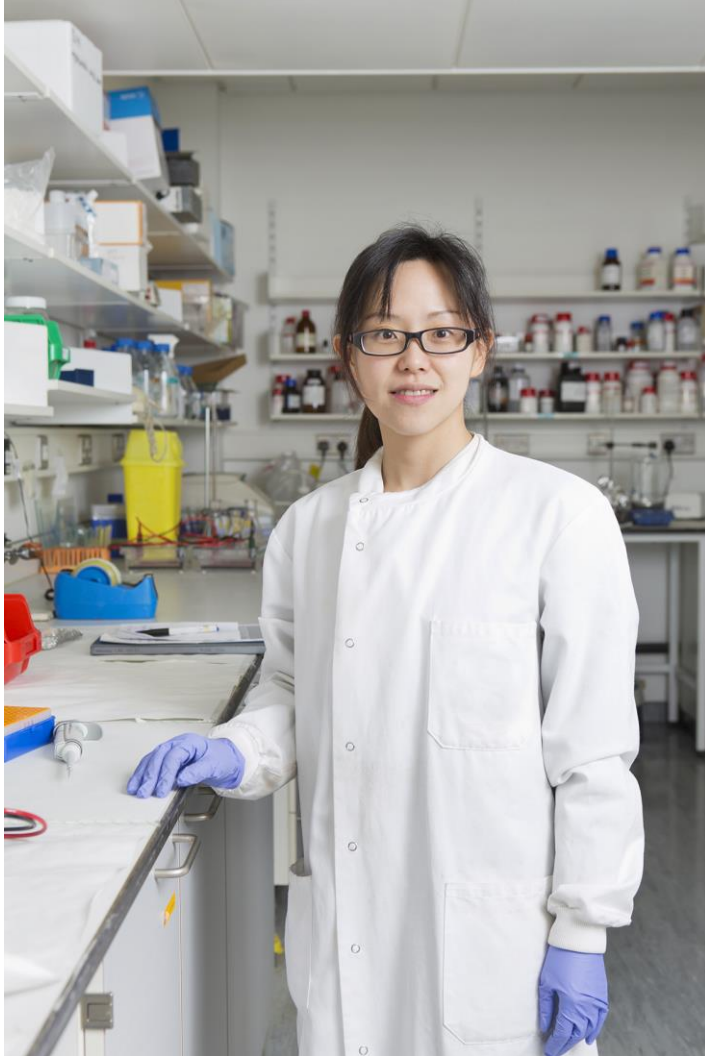
Geologist



A geologist studies the Earth and how it was made. They might look at the Earth's surface or use technology to survey deep underneath the ground and see its structure. A geologist could work with computers or may be outside looking at the ground and taking samples.



Medicinal chemist



Medicinal chemists mix chemicals to make medicines that treat illness and disease. They are interested in using science to help others. Medicinal chemists usually work in a laboratory.



Colour technician (hair)



A colour technician is a type of hairdresser that uses science and design and technology to create and use different hair dyes to colour hair. A colour technician enjoys working with lots of different people.



Research scientist



A research scientist plans and performs experiments. They might work in different fields such as medical research, battery design or computer science. Research scientists work in different kinds of organisations, including government agencies, universities and private businesses. Scientists often work in teams, but can also conduct research on their own and will communicate their work to other people.



Toy maker



A toy maker designs and makes new toys. They choose materials carefully to make toys that work. Toy makers need to be creative and interested in what children enjoy playing with but also understand how different materials behave. For example, a bouncy ball needs a stretchy material and plastic building bricks need to be strong.



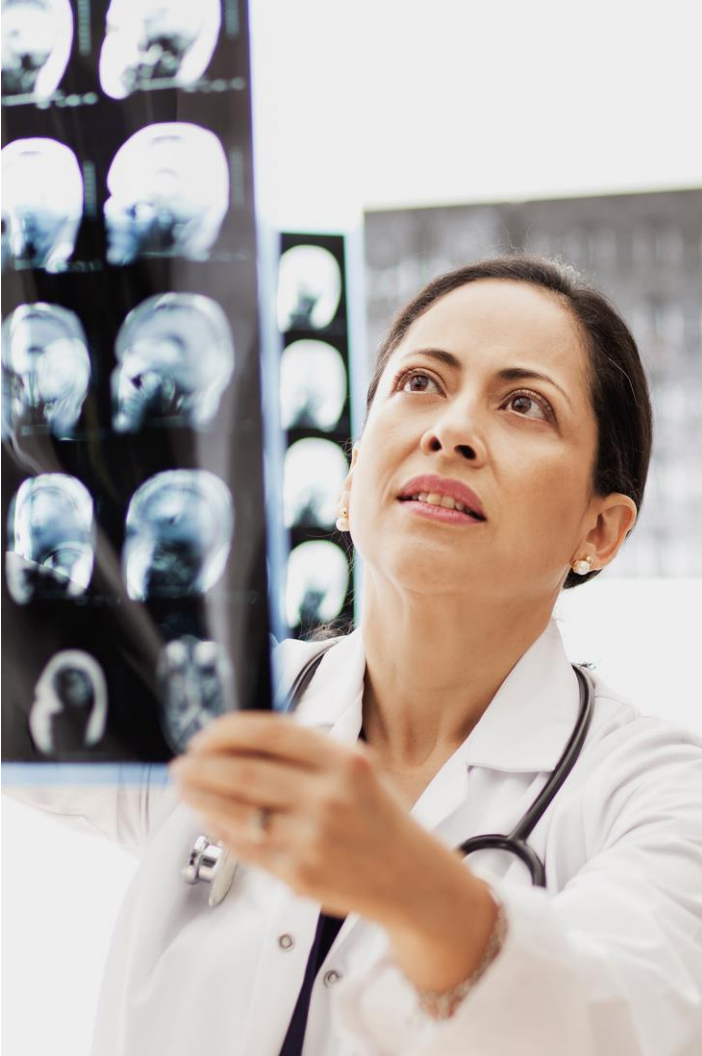
Inventor



An inventor creates and discovers new things. They try to find ways of solving problems so need to be creative and curious. Inventors work in lots of different areas, such as material science or computer technology.



Radiologist



A radiologist is a type of doctor who uses medical imaging such as X-rays or MRI scans to support the diagnosis and treatment of various illnesses and injuries. They will work with patients and doctors, taking the images they need and then interpreting what they see.



Physiotherapist



Physiotherapists help people affected by injury, illness or disability. They help patients through movement and exercise and provide manual therapy, education and advice. They will work with patients in hospitals, clinics and in their homes.



Zoologist



Zoologists are biologists who study animals and their behaviour. They may work in zoos, aquariums, in research laboratories or outside studying animals in their natural habitat. Zoologists will usually need to communicate their findings to other scientists or to the general public.



Oceanographer



Oceanographers use mathematical, engineering and scientific theories to investigate the oceans and to communicate their findings to other scientists. They look at relationships between fresh water, seawater, the atmosphere and polar ice caps. They can study marine life, the ocean floor, chemicals in sea water, water temperature, tides and currents.

