



STUDENT ACTIVATION



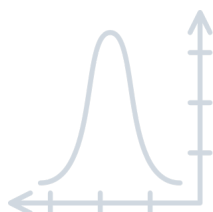
(Bat) Conservationist

OVERVIEW¹

Conservationists are professionals, like zoologists or wildlife biologists, who love science, animals, and the outdoors. In particular, bat conservationists try to find solutions to threats that affect bats, such as disease and habitat loss. Conservationists research animal behaviors and characteristics and how animals interact with their ecosystems. Many conservationists are animal keepers and curators in zoos or zoological parks.

EVALUATE YOUR INTEREST

- I enjoy learning about animals, nature, and our planet.
- I enjoy being outdoors and doing hands-on projects to help save animals or study them.
- I like analyzing situations and providing suggestions for improvement.
- I am self-motivated. I can decide on a question I want to answer, conduct independent research, develop a hypothesis, test it, analyze the results, and discuss my findings without much guidance.



(Bat) Conservationist

STUDENT ACTIVATION (CONTINUED)



How does this career affect me?	What are some other similar careers?¹	How does this career affect the world?^{2,3}
<p>The conservation and protection of animal species is important if we want to be able to benefit from their presence in our world. What if your cat, dog, snake, or gerbil was in peril of going extinct? Did you know that close to a million species could face extinction in a matter of decades? Many people feel a sense of unity with all animals and do not want their presence on the planet to be endangered. Biodiversity is essential for balance in our environment. For example, bats and birds eat millions of bothersome insects, like mosquitos, daily. Animals provide food, labor, organic byproducts, beautiful colors and sounds, entertainment, and companionship to our lives. If they are not around, your whole life could change in ways you can't even imagine!</p>	<p>Animal scientists conduct research on domestic farm animals. With a focus on food production, they explore animal genetics, nutrition, reproduction, diseases, growth, and development.</p> <p>Veterinarians treat the injuries and illnesses of pets and other animals with a variety of medical equipment, including surgical tools and x-ray and ultrasound machines. They provide treatment for animals that is similar to the services a physician provides to humans.</p> <p>Range conservationists inventory soils, plants, and animals; develop resource management plans; help to restore degraded ecosystems; or help manage a ranch.</p>	<p>One compelling benefit that comes from wildlife conservation is that it can protect human health. Conservation International reports that "more than 50 percent of modern medicines and more than 90 percent of traditional medicines come from wild plants and animals."²</p> <p>Since ancient times, humans have relied on countless species of wild fauna and flora in their daily lives for food and in the creation of health care products and clothing.</p> <p>Biodiversity loss and ecosystem collapse are among the top threats humanity will face in the next ten years. The advancement of all human society will require the legal, ethical, and sustainable use of wildlife, such as small mammals like bats, larger animals, and even fish and reptiles.</p> <p>More profitable farms and businesses, increased tourism in remote areas, and the bringing together of communities worldwide will be possible in a preservation-based economy with increasing biodiversity and healthy ecosystems.</p>



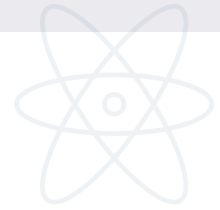
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STUDENT ACTIVATION (CONTINUED)



TAKE ACTION

- Learn about an animal native to your area that is considered scary or a nuisance. Research its habitat, food supply, and the impact humans have on it. Think of ways that you could help conserve or protect the animal. Create an action plan that educates the public on why this animal might not be a nuisance or as scary as it seems.
- Plan and build a bat or bird house. Research what materials, size, and layout are best and where it should be located. After the project is completed, observe its inhabitants for a month and record your information. Share your work with your family or class.
- Observe or prepare collections of preserved specimens for species identification and study of development in a small animal of your choice. Discuss your findings with a friend or fellow enthusiast.



¹ Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Outlook Handbook, Zoologists and Wildlife Biologists. <https://www.bls.gov/ooh/life-physical-and-social-science/zoologists-and-wildlife-biologists.htm>.

² Conservation International. <https://www.conservation.org>.

³ United Nations. <https://www.un.org/en/un-chronicle/global-framework-wildlife-conservation-can-benefit-sustainable-human-development>.