Scientist in the Spotlight



Christopher Jackson

Earth Science Professor

Christopher Jackson is an Earth Science professor in London. He enjoys teaching and that is what attracted him to this course of career. One of the most interesting things he has done is imaging ancient, buried **magma** chamber systems, including million-year-old **volcanoes** located off the coasts of China, Australia and New Zealand. This means that Christopher has studied a great deal about the structure of the earth, including which layers are solid and which layers are liquid.

According to Christopher, a good scientist should have an **inquisitive** mind and the willingness to work with, listen and learn from others. For him, there is no typical day in **academia** and every day brings a new adventure.

He does look forward to the days when he can do fieldwork, where he can work outdoors, in stunning, far-flung locations. He can then apply the concepts learned from reading academic articles and books to real life situations and gain hands-on experience. As a geologist, one of the coolest things he has done is abseil into an active volcano. But fieldwork can sometimes be very demanding due to its **remoteness** and physicality, for example, climbing mountains. The best, as well as the worst, thing regarding his job is the variety of people he meets. While sometimes he has wonderful experiences and sometimes it gets a bit tiring.

Making science accessible to everyone is important for this professor. Christopher tries his best to make sure that everyone, regardless of their background and experiences, gets a chance to pursue science, be that in academia or industry.

Activity

Use the scientist's profile to answer the following questions:

1. What is the scientist's job?

2. Briefly describe what the scientist does in a typical day.

3. What skills do they need for this job?

4. What do you think is the most interesting part of their job?

5. Describe how this job links with the science you have learned in this unit

6. State the definition of any words in **bold**.