

**Miranda Lowe, Crustacea Curator, Natural History Museum,
answers questions from the children of Year 4, Stroud Green Primary School:-**

When did you start? I started at working at the Natural History Museum in 1991! That was many years ago now and I still love what I do!

Why did you choose this job? As a child I loved wildlife, animals, nature and photography so family trips to museums spurred my interest to pursue a career in science and even better working in a national museum.

Is it easy being a scientist? It's not easy all the time because sometimes you have to talk about challenging topics such as climate change and try to make everyone aware of the impact they have on the planet which includes how different species of animals and plants will survive in the future.

Did you ever want to do something else? I always wanted to have a job in the world of science. I originally wanted to be a Pharmacist/Chemist because chemistry was one of the science subjects I loved. A Pharmacist is a person who is an expert in medicines and can help you with minor health concerns.

What was your first experiment? After leaving university and even before working at the Museum my first big experiment was while I was working in a medical school in a local hospital and learning how to extract and analyse DNA which is the genetic material in our bodies. This was to help understand why we might sometimes suffer from different illnesses.

Do you like doing your job? Yes, I do enjoy my job as its all the things I wanted to do as a kid and more now that I'm a grown-up, like exploring the oceans and being curious about the natural world! The best bit is to tell everyone about what I do at work.

Is it fun being a crustacea curator? I hope you mean 'Curator'! Yes, my job can be fun as I see lots of cool stuff and part of my role is to look after Charles Darwin's historical barnacle and Coral collections. I also study interesting crabs, lobsters and tiny shrimps (amphipods), meet and work with lots of amazing scientists and members of the public from all over the world.

Why do they have funny names? Some of the specimens in museum collections may have scientific names like *Architeuthis dux* (giant squid) and then have a nickname name to go with it like 'Archie' the giant squid that is housed at the Natural History Museum!