

# Just for Kids

## A Career as a Wildlife Biologist

*Would you like to become a wildlife biologist when you grow up?*

**If you like the outdoors, wild animals, ecology, math, computers and working with people, then maybe wildlife biology is the career for you!**

**Why ecology?** Well, wildlife biologists need to understand how animals interact with their environment. For example, it is important to know where animals live, what they eat and how they move from one place to another.

**Math & computers?** Wildlife biologists spend a lot of time on the job conducting research to learn more about wild animals. Research often involves measurements, calculations and record-keeping with charts and graphs. Computers, of course, help biologists analyze the results of the research.

### *Figure this out:*

- If a bear eats 80 pounds of food in 10 days, how much does it eat each day?
- If 60 pounds of a bear's diet is plants, nuts and berries and 20 pounds of its diet is insects and other animals, what percentage of the whole diet is a vegetarian diet?

**Answer:** \_\_\_\_\_

8 pounds each day (80 divided by 10); 75% of its diet is a vegetarian diet (60 divided by 80, multiplied by 100)



P. J. FUSCO

Wildlife biologists must be ready and able to handle wild animals in both wild and captive situations. For example, Wildlife Division biologist Paul Rego is careful as he releases an agitated bobcat that was hit by a car and kept in captivity until it was determined that the bobcat did not have any injuries.

**People?** Probably one of the least known aspects of the job is how much time is spent answering questions from the public and media and helping people learn to live close to, or coexist, with wild animals.

### *Still sound like a good career?*

**Then start learning all you can about wildlife....spend more time outside; join a bird club; use a computer to research animals you would like to learn more about. And get good grades in school!**

## Be a Biologist!

Studying science takes a great deal of patience and tremendous attention to detail. Practice your observational skills by searching for the hidden words below!

H B L L O F X X N L C J W K N E E D O N E  
F V J L Q N H E A K P X I H N Z Q V E X V  
I T Z W K P X X C N Q Q L C Y X L F Y E S  
E F M N A H N J X S T U D Y F I N G T X Z  
L H Z R O B S E R V E U L N O M O A M O J  
D Z G X E O O T V B F K I I J L L E B A U  
A F P E K C R H D D U A F K O U Z H G H M  
E H J H W A O A D A L P E I C M Y J X E E  
X Y K Q H H J R H T I E B L W K M K I S A  
G B I C P Q G O D A K J A D B F G O E W S  
H Z D W W S Q N J K B C Y M G J K H O R U  
K A J M J O P P F V E C O L O G Y Z D G R  
A U B T I O Z H F O R Y T M P X T L I O E  
Q I O I H X C R F E G T I B B X S B M V M  
E D S V T B T L F O E A O F I Z P F D E E  
J L W D J A U Y L R D Z X M Y F Y N C L N  
L Z B M G P T O U R E S E A R C H U G F T  
X S W M Q G O T I B J N T P Q V L P S C M  
Q J X P C Z A T H Y I P V G Y O Y X M O X  
G W C B D N V E Y M X S Q I H C W Z D Y O  
K Z Q O F W D L Z Z K V S Y A W I T K W F

**Biology**  
**Wildlife**  
**Observe**  
**Data**

**Measurement**  
**Calculate**  
**Research**  
**Habitat**

**Ecology**  
**Zoology**  
**Nature**  
**Field**

**Study**  
**Record**  
**Chart**  
**Graph**