

Aquatic Biologist Interview Questions

1. Tell me about an experience in which you analyzed information and evaluated results to choose the best solution to a problem.
2. Describe an experience when you studied animals in their natural habitats, assessing effects of environment and industry on animals, interpreting findings and recommending alternative operating conditions for industry.
3. Describe effective methods to inventory or estimate plant and wildlife populations.
4. Share an experience you had in dealing with a difficult person and how you handled the situation.
5. Tell me how you organize, plan, and prioritize your work.
6. What are some long-range objectives that you developed in your last job? What did you do to achieve them?
7. Give me an example of when you thought outside of the box. How did it help your employer?
8. Would you consider analyzing data or information a strength? How so?
9. Share an example of a time you had to gather information from multiple sources. How did you determine which information was relevant?
10. Share a time when you successfully used scientific rules or methods to solve a problem at work.
11. How would you rate your writing skills? (Ask for an example that demonstrates great writing skills.)
12. Provide an example of a time when you were able to demonstrate excellent listening skills. What was the situation and outcome?
13. How do you balance cooperation with others and independent thinking? Share an example. (Try to determine if the candidate has a cooperative attitude or is otherwise good-natured.)
14. What is the key to success when communicating with the public.

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15. Share an experience in which your understanding of a current or upcoming problem helped your company to respond to the problem.
16. Share an example of when you went above and beyond the "call of duty". (Look for answers that show the candidate is dependable.)
17. Tell me about the last time you oversaw the care and distribution of zoo animals, working with curators and zoo directors to determine the best way to contain animals, maintain their habitats and manage facilities.
18. Share an experience in which your attention to detail and thoroughness had an impact on your last company.
19. Please share with me an example of how you helped coach or mentor someone. What improvements did you see in the person's knowledge or skills?
20. Provide a time when you were able to identify a complex problem, evaluate the options, and implement a solution. How did the solution benefit your employer?
21. Provide an example when your ethics were tested.
22. Name a time when you raised specimens for study and observation or for use in experiments. How did it go?
23. Provide a time when you worked in a rapidly evolving workplace. How did you deal with the change? (Make sure the candidate is flexible.)
24. Share an experience in which you successfully coordinated with others. How about a coordination effort that was not as successful?
25. Provide a time when you dealt calmly and effectively with a high-stress situation.
26. What is the most challenging part of organizing and conducting experimental studies with live animals in controlled or natural surroundings?

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27. Tell me about the last time you made recommendations on management systems and planning for wildlife populations and habitat, consulting with stakeholders and the public at large to explore options.
28. Name a time when your advice to management led to an improvement in your company or otherwise helped your employer.
29. Share a time when you willingly took on additional responsibilities or challenges. How did you successfully meet all of the demands of these responsibilities? (Make sure the candidate is a self-starter and can demonstrate some initiative.)
30. Provide an example of when you were persistent in the face of obstacles.
31. What factors do you consider when disseminating information by writing reports and scientific papers or journal articles, and by making presentations and giving talks for schools, clubs, interest groups and park interpretive programs?
32. Walk me through how you would study characteristics of animals such as origin, interrelationships, classification, life histories and diseases, development, genetics, and distribution.
33. Share an experience in which your willingness to lead or offer an opinion helped your company.
34. Name a time when your creativity or alternative thinking solved a problem in your workplace.
35. Share an experience in which personal connections to coworkers or others helped you to be successful in your work. (Make sure candidate works well with others.)
36. Share an example of when you established and accomplished a goal that was personally challenging. What helped you succeed?
37. Share your effective system to analyze characteristics of animals to identify and classify them.
38. Share an example when you coordinated preventive programs to control the outbreak of wildlife diseases.

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39. Describe an experience when you informed and responded to public regarding wildlife and conservation issues, such as plant identification, hunting ordinances, and nuisance wildlife.

40. How often do you perform administrative duties such as fundraising, public relations, budgeting, and supervision of zoo staff? What works for you?

41. What have you found to be the best way to prepare collections of preserved specimens or microscopic slides for species identification and study of development or disease?

42. What is your approach when checking for, and ensuring compliance with, environmental laws and notifying law enforcement when violations are identified? Share an example.

43. Describe a time when you successfully persuaded another person to change his/her way of thinking or behavior.