

## Research Biologist Interview Questions

1. What kind of experience do you have collecting and analyzing biological data about relationships among and between organisms and their environment? Share an example.
2. What is the most challenging part of supervising biological technicians and technologists and other scientists?
3. Walk me through how you prepare technical and research reports such as environmental impact reports, and communicate the results to individuals in industry, government, or the general public.
4. Share an experience in which you successfully shared a difficult piece of information. (Make sure that the candidate has open lines of communication.)
5. Tell me how you organize, plan, and prioritize your work.
6. Share an experience when you applied new technology or information in your job. How did it help your company?
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 effective approach to working with a large amount of information/data. How has your approach affected your company?
10. Name a time when you identified strengths and weaknesses of alternative solutions to problems. What was the impact?
11. Share a time when you successfully used scientific rules or methods to solve a problem at work.
12. Please share an experience in which you presented to a group. What was the situation and how did it go?
13. How would you rate your writing skills? (Ask for an example that demonstrates great writing skills.)
14. Share an example when you measured salinity, acidity, light, oxygen content, and other physical

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conditions of water to determine their relationship to aquatic life. What were your findings?

15. Tell me how you study basic principles of plant and animal life such as origin, relationship, development, anatomy, and function.

16. Name a time where you studied aquatic plants and animals and environmental conditions affecting them such as radioactivity or pollution. Any new findings?

17. Share an approach to study and manage wild animal populations.

18. What is the secret to develop and maintain liaisons and effective working relations with groups and individuals, agencies, and the public to encourage cooperative management strategies or to develop information and interpret findings?

19. Share an experience in which your attention to detail and thoroughness had an impact on your last company.

20. Provide an example of a time when you were able to demonstrate excellent listening skills. What was the situation and outcome?

21. Share an experience you had in dealing with a difficult person and how you handled the situation.

22. Provide an example when your ethics were tested.

23. Provide an experience that demonstrates your ability to manage time effectively. What were the challenges and results?

24. Share an example of when you went above and beyond the "call of duty". (Look for answers that show the candidate is dependable.)

25. 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.)

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26. What have you found to be the best way to monitor the performance of your work and/or the work of others? Share a time when you had to take corrective action.

27. Share an example where you developed methods and apparatus for securing representative plant, animal, aquatic, or soil samples.

28. What method have you found effective researching environmental effects of present and potential uses of land and water areas, determining methods of improving environmental conditions or such outputs as crop yields?

29. Tell me about the last time you reviewed reports and proposals, such as those relating to land use classifications and recreational development, for accuracy, adequacy, or adherence to policies, regulations, or scientific standards.

30. Tell me about a time when you developed your own way of doing things or were self-motivated to finish an important task.

31. Provide a time when you worked in a rapidly evolving workplace. How did you deal with the change? (Make sure the candidate is flexible.)

32. Share an example of when you established and accomplished a goal that was personally challenging. What helped you succeed?

33. Name a time when your patience was tested. How did you keep your emotions in check?

34. 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.)

35. Please share an experience in which you successfully taught a difficult principle or concept. How were you able to be successful?

36. Share an experience in which your willingness to lead or offer an opinion helped your company.

37. What is the most challenging part of budgeting for you?

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38. Provide an example when you were able to prevent a problem because you foresaw the reaction of another person.

39. Provide an example of a time when you successfully organized a diverse group of people to accomplish a task.

40. Share an experience in which you successfully coordinated with others. How about a coordination effort that was not as successful?

41. Share an experience in which you used new training skills, ideas, or a method to adapt to a new situation or improve an ongoing one. (Look for the candidate's ability to learn.)

42. Provide an experience in which you were sensitive to someone's needs or feelings. How did your helpfulness affect your work environment?

43. Tell me about some of your most recent computer programming projects.

44. Provide an example of a project you worked on that demonstrates your programming abilities. What was your role in the project?

45. Provide an example of when you set expectations and monitored the performance of subordinates. What guidance and direction did you find most effective?

46. 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.)

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

48. Share an experience in which your diligence of inspecting equipment, structures, or materials helped you identify a problem or the cause of a problem.