

WILD PLANET

THE LIFE AND WISDOM OF SIR DAVID ATTENBOROUGH

HAYLEY ROCCO • JOHN ROCCO

ROCK THE BOAT

“If we take care of nature,
nature will take care of us.”

—Sir David Attenborough





This is our **planet**.

On our planet,
there are 8.7 million
types of animals.

One of those types
is human, and one
of those humans
is a man named David.

When David was born, more than two-thirds of our planet was covered in **wild places**. That was where most of the animals lived.

The other third was where the humans lived.

As a child, David liked to explore the wild places near his home in England.

On one of his adventures, he broke open a rock and discovered the **fossil** of an ammonite inside.

Ammonites were sea creatures that died out 66 million years ago.

It thrilled David to know that he was the first human to see *this* particular animal. His curiosity grew.



"Why were there so many different kinds of ammonites?"

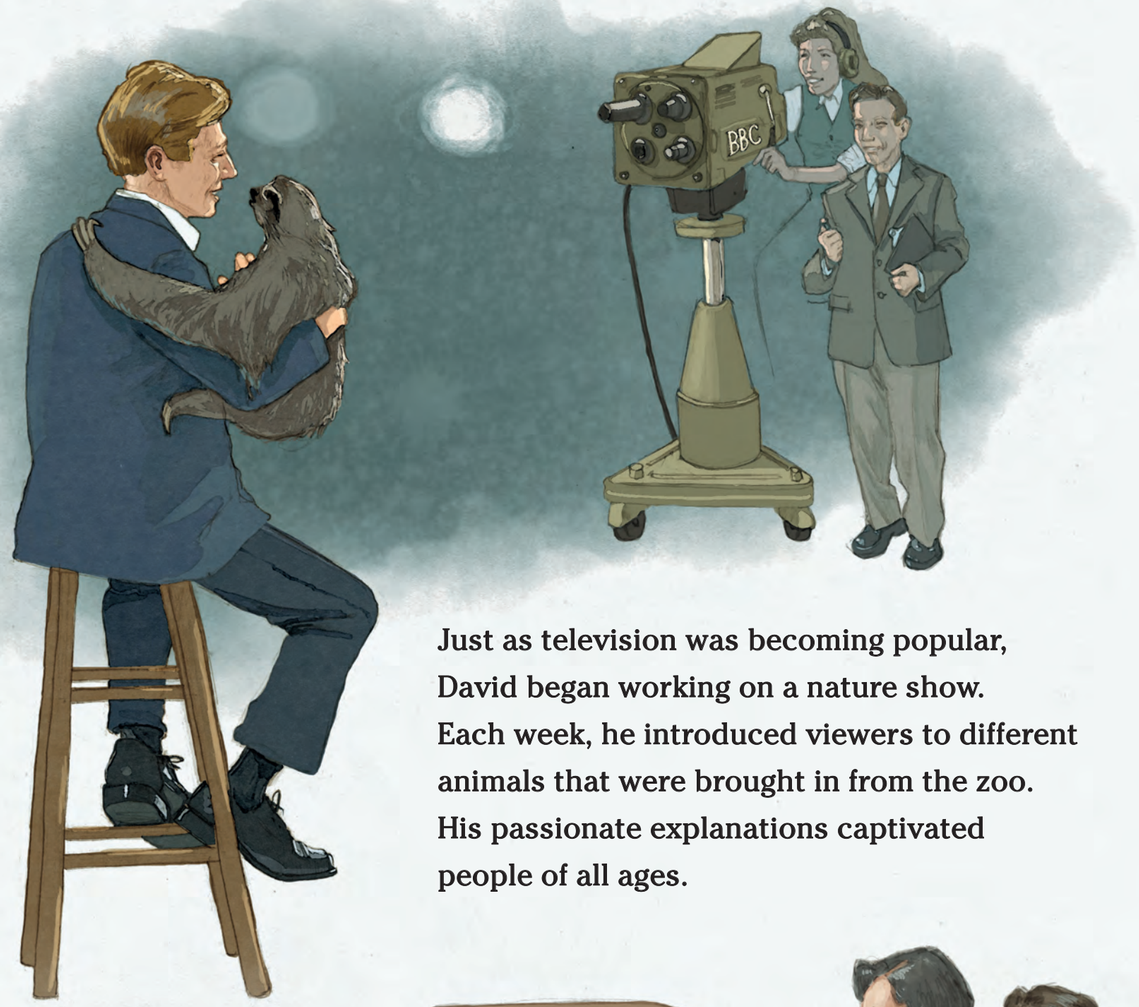


David often went back to the wild places to see what else he might discover. He loved collecting fossils, **rocks**, **newts** and other things.

When he grew older, David went to university to learn more about the wild places and the animals that lived there. Understanding how the natural world worked was more important to him than studying politics, languages or the history of queens and kings.

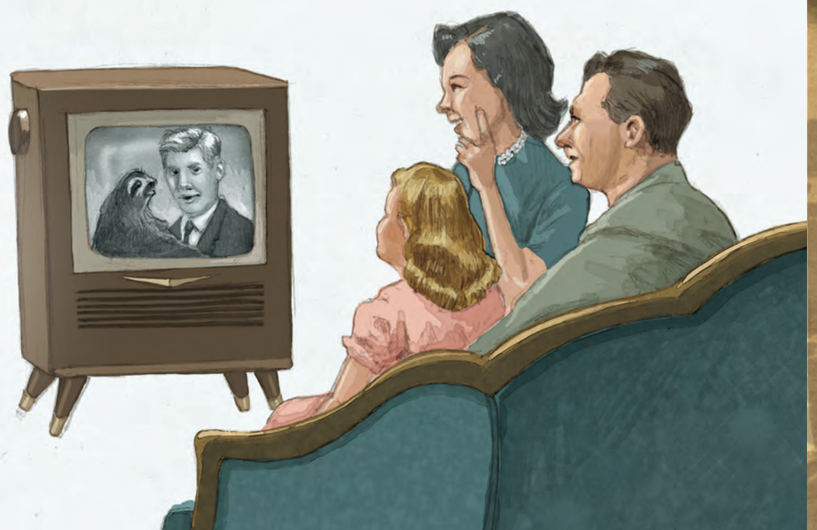
And the more he discovered, the more David wanted to share what he had learned with others.





Just as television was becoming popular, David began working on a nature show. Each week, he introduced viewers to different animals that were brought in from the zoo. His passionate explanations captivated people of all ages.

"This extraordinary creature is half-blind, half-deaf and this is just about as fast as it can move."



One day, David had an idea. If they filmed *in* the wild places, he could show us where and how these animals lived!

So David started travelling all over the planet, filming animals in wild places most people had never seen before. He became our connection to the natural world.



Our immense gratitude goes to Sir David Attenborough for inspiring generations of humans to explore, discover, care for and cherish the natural world we live in. And to Wendy Hapgood and John Steward of Wild Tomorrow, who risked everything to help wildlife and wild places in South Africa. You serve as an inspiration that we can all do our part for the greater good of the planet.

—H.R. and J.R.



HAYLEY ROCCO is the author of *How to Send a Hug*, her first collaboration with her husband, John Rocco.

JOHN ROCCO is a *New York Times* bestselling author and award-winning illustrator of several children's books including *Blackout* and *How We Got to the Moon*, which received a Sibert Honor and was longlisted for the National Book Award.

They are both ambassadors for Wild Tomorrow, a rewilding charity based in South Africa. They also co-founded Children's Book Creators for Conservation – a collective group of children's authors and illustrators who support conservation efforts. Together, they venture into the wild in search of stories they can bring back and share with readers everywhere.

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