

OKLAHOMA ROCKS! A Day in the Life

What is an interview? Why are they helpful? What can you learn from conducting an interview? An interview is a conversation with someone in which you ask that person questions about a specific topic. In this case, you're going to interview someone working in the field of geoscience that you've been exploring over the last few weeks.

WHO: Who do you want to interview? This should be a person in the geoscience field you've been studying. Use your network of people (family, friends, and teachers) to help you identify a person within your chosen field of geoscience. Try the Internet if you don't know anyone personally. Technology allows us to connect with people all over the world – take advantage of this! If you choose someone local, you might get to interview the person face-to-face.

WHAT: Your interview can take place in person, over the phone, or using email/video chat.

WHEN: Decide on when your interview will happen. Make an appointment (date and time – be aware of time differences if your interviewee lives in another region of the US or world).

WHERE: If you are meeting your interviewee face-to-face, pick somewhere convenient, such as his/her office or laboratory. This might be a good chance to see what the work environment is like for that person. Don't forget to check with someone in your family if you'll need a ride. Other good places are public libraries or a café.

HOW: Prepare the questions you want to ask your interviewee. A list of about 10 questions in a logical sequence will help keep the conversation going. Start broad (e.g., "Please tell me about a typical day at your job."), and end with specific questions (e.g., "If I wanted to go into this field, what advice would you give me?"). You might also ask about their favorite and least favorite parts of working in their chosen field, or how and when they became interested in the geosciences.

Don't forget to thank your interviewee for taking time to answer your questions. A mailed or emailed thank-you note will be much appreciated!

TEACHERS!

Did you know OERB offers Virtual Field Trips? You and your students can learn more about geoscience without leaving your school! Find out more here:

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