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Why did you become a scientist?

I became a scientist because there is nothing more interesting to me than the natural world. I love being able to explore my questions about our planet by performing experiments and analyzing results. Science is the perfect field for someone who's curious about the way things work, and who wants to know more about why nature behaves the way that it does.



What do you study for DUST²? Why is this important?

I study the microbiome of dust. I take dust samples and examine all the bacteria in them, then use those bacteria to generate a fingerprint. That fingerprint can then be used in the future to tell us where dust is coming from when it lands somewhere.

What do you do day-to-day in your work?

Every day is different depending on what kind of research I'm doing. I might be in the lab filtering samples or extracting DNA, in the field performing an experiment or collecting more dust, or at a desk analyzing data and writing about my results.



What advice do you have for students interested in science?

If you're interested in the environment, learn as much as you can! There is always more to know about our world, and the more you learn, the more you'll be able to figure out what new things YOU can discover.

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