

Naturalist Intelligence

This intelligence has to do with being in tune with nature and one's natural surroundings. This is the eighth and newest of the intelligences, added to the MI theory in 1999, and is not as widely accepted as the original seven. This intelligence was not part of Gardner's original theory of Multiple Intelligences. Those with it are said to have greater sensitivity to nature and their place within it, the ability to nurture and grow things, and greater ease in caring for, interacting with and taming animals. They may also be able to discern changes in weather or similar fluctuations in their natural surroundings. They are also good at recognizing and classifying different species. Naturalists learn best when the subject involves observing, collecting and analyzing, or is closely related to something prominent in nature.

You probably have a gift for Naturalist Intelligence if you:

- Are sensitive to and appreciative of nature
- Enjoy gardening
- Love caring for and interacting with animals
- Are gifted at nurturing/growing flora (plants)
- Appreciate scenic places
- Feel alive when in contact with nature
- Like to camp, hike, backpack and climb
- Have a hobby that involves nature
- Are bothered by pollution
- Easily distinguish patterns in nature
- Are very aware of changes in weather
- Are extremely environmentally conscious

Sample Naturalist Leisure Activities

- Walking or backpacking in nature
- Gardening
- Camping
- Hiking mountains or trails
- Caring for animals and/or plants
- Studying/observing animals or plants in their natural habit (e.g., bird watching)
- Reading nature books or magazines
- Taking courses related to nature (such as botany, ecology, zoology, etc.)
- Volunteering for an ecological organization (such as Greenpeace or Sierra Club)
- Visiting a zoo, natural history museum, national park, etc.
- Watching nature shows on TV (National Geographic, Nova, the Discovery Channel)
- Reading biographies and autobiographies of famous naturalists
- Participating in environmental or nature preservation causes

People who are famous for their Naturalist Intelligence

- Al Gore
- Alfred Russel Wallace
- Archie Carr
- Archie Carr III
- Arthur Davis Hasler
- Austin Stevens
- Bernard Heuvelmans
- Biruté Galdikas
- Carl-Gustaf Rossby
- Carolus Linnaeus
- Charles Darwin
- Charles Eliot
- David Abram
- David Attenborough
- David W. Macdonald
- Dawn Prince-Hughes
- Desmond Morris
- Dian Fossey
- E. O. Wilson
- E. Ray Lankester
- Edmund Brisco Ford
- Edward Lorenz
- Emmet Kinsella
- Eric Pianka
- Ernest P. Walker
- Ernst Mayr
- Eugenie Clark
- Fritz Müller
- George A. Feldhamer
- George Schaller
- Georges Cuvier
- George Washington Carver
- Hans-Wilhelm Koepcke
- Harry W. Greene
- Henry Walter Bates
- Jacques-Yves Cousteau
- Jakob van Uexküll
- James R. Dixon
- Jane Goodall
- Jeff Corwin
- John James Audubon
- John Maynard Smith
- John Muir
- John Werler
- Jon Krakauer
- Julian Huxley
- Karl von Frisch
- Konrad Lorenz
- Libbie Hyman
- Louis Agassiz
- Louis Leakey
- Luther Burbank
- Lyall Watson
- Norman E. Borlaug
- Patrick Moore
- Penelope Smith
- Perry G. Holden
- Rachel Carson
- Richard Dawkins
- Richard Owen
- Robert Broom
- Roger Tory Peterson
- Ron Nowak
- Scott Fischer
- Steve Irwin
- Su Song
- Thomas Henry Huxley
- Thomas Say
- Victor Hensen
- Vilhelm Bjerknes
- Vladimir Nabokov
- William Emerson Ritter
- William Flower
- William H. Cade
- William Kirby

There are numerous applications of the multiple intelligences system. The most popular application of multiple intelligences is in education, to nurture all the different kinds of intelligence in children. There are many wonderful books written about teaching and learning through the multiple intelligences so if that is an interest of yours I will refer you to my [Multiple Intelligences References](#) section for that information. My interest lies in using multiple intelligences for vocational guidance and relationship compatibility so that is what I will focus on here in this description.

People are naturally drawn to careers that make use of their giftedness. It is obvious that people like to do what they enjoy and are good at. What follows are some careers that make use of the Naturalist intelligence as well as the Naturalist intelligence combined with other intelligences.

Careers that Especially Utilize Naturalist Intelligence

- Any job that requires a highly developed sensitivity to and appreciation for nature
- Agronomist
- Animal communicator
- Animal husbandry specialist
- Animal rescue worker
- Animal scientist
- Animal therapist
- Animal trainer
- Anthropologist
- Anthrozoologist
- Apiologist (aka Melittologist)
- Arachnologist
- Astronomer
- Beekeeper
- Botanist
- Cetologist
- Conchologist
- Conservationist/Conservation scientist
- Cryptozoologist
- Dog sitter/walker (self-employed)
- Ecologist
- Entomologist
- Environmental compliance inspector
- Environmental engineer
- Environmental scientist
- Environmentalist (any)
- Ethologist
- Evolutionary biologist
- Farmer (crop or animal)
- Floriculturist
- Forest and conservation worker/technician
- Forest ranger
- Forester/forest ecologist
- Gardener
- Geochemist
- Geographer
- Geologist
- Geophysicist
- Geoscientist (any)
- Herpetologist
- Horticulturist
- Ichthyologist
- Landscape architect
- Limnologist
- Malacologist
- Mammalogist
- Marine biologist
- Meteorologist
- Mountaineer (leader/guide)
- Myrmecologist
- Natural history museum worker
- Natural scientist
- Naturalist
- Nature guide
- Neuroethologist
- Nonfarm animal caretaker
- Nursery worker
- Ornithologist
- Paleontologist
- Park or forest ranger
- Park naturalist
- Pet groomer/washer
- Pet store owner/worker
- Planktologist
- Preservationist
- Primatologist
- Range manager/conservationist/ecologist
- Seismologist
- Tree trimmer and pruner
- Veterinarian
- Viticulturist/Vintner
- Weather tracking specialist
- Wildlife biologist
- Wildlife illustrator/painter
- Zookeeper
- Zoologist

Sample Job Skills

- Analyzing
- Camping out
- Charting relationships (among species)
- Climbing
- Collecting data
- Distinguishing (among species)
- Examining
- Gathering
- Growing
- Hiking
- Inspecting
- Interacting (with animals)
- Investigating
- Nurturing
- Observing
- Preserving
- Protecting
- Researching
- Restoring (the environment)
- Studying
- Tracking
- Understanding climate patterns

Sample Careers that Utilize Naturalist Intelligence with Other Intelligences

Naturalist and Verbal-Linguistic

- Curator for a natural history museum
- Environmental lawyer
- Environmental science teacher
- Forestry and conservation science teacher
- Wildlife reporter
- Writer or editor for a nature periodical, journal or magazine (like National Geographic)

Naturalist and Logical-Mathematical

- Agricultural engineer
- Animal scientist
- Archaeologist
- Conservation scientist
- Environmental compliance inspector
- Environmental engineer
- Environmental scientist
- Geoscientist
- Meteorologist
- Natural scientist
- Range manager
- Soil and plant scientist
- Soil and water conservationist
- Soil engineer
- Veterinarian
- Wildlife biologist
- Zoologist

Naturalist and Visual-Spatial

- Geographer
- Horticulturist (like [Luther Burbank](#))
- Landscape architect (like [Charles Eliot](#))
- Nature photographer/artist (like [Ansel Adams](#))
- Wildlife illustrator/painter (like [Dylan Scott Pierce](#))

Naturalist and Bodily-Kinesthetic

- Dog sitter/walker
- Farmer
- Forest ranger
- Gardner
- Landscaper
- Mountaineer
- Nature guide

- Park ranger
- Pet groomer/washer
- Viticulturist/Vintner
- Zookeeper

Naturalist and Musical-Rhythmic

- A naturalist who uses music to tame/relax animals
- Bioacoustic researcher and ecologist (such as [David Dunn](#) of Santa Fe, NM)
- Composer of themes about nature
- Singer who specializes in singing lyrics about nature

Naturalist and Interpersonal

- Animal communicator
- Aquacultural manager
- Crop and livestock manager
- Nursery and greenhouse manager
- Park naturalist

Naturalist and Intrapersonal

- Animal therapist

Sample Naturalist Majors in School

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| • Agriculture | • Forestry | • Organic chemistry |
| • Agronomy and crop science | • Geology | • Paleontology |
| • Animal behavior & ethology | • Horticulture | • Physical science |
| • Animal science | • Landscape architecture | • Plant pathology |
| • Biology | • Marine biology | • Soil science |
| • Botany | • Marine science | • Sustainable resource management |
| • Ecology | • Meteorology | • Wildlife management |
| • Environmental science | • Natural resource conservation | • Zoology |
| • Entomology | | |