

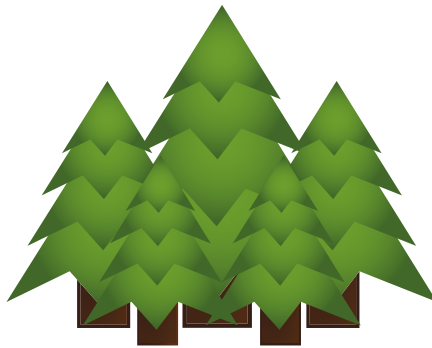
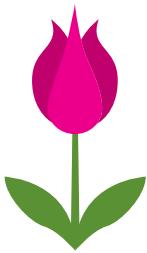


SCIENCE CAREER
ADVENTURES

A young woman with dark hair and glasses, wearing a red and blue plaid shirt over a grey tank top, is smiling and holding a laptop. She is standing outdoors in a field with a blurred background.

Isabella the Conservationist: Protecting Species

Meet Isabella



Hi! I am Isabella, and I am a conservationist! The word “conserve” means to save something. A conservationist finds way to save parts of nature, like forests that are being cut down. A conservationist also saves animals and plants.

What Conservationists Do

Here are some examples of projects that conservationists work on:

Saving birds' nests in places where trees are being cut down.



Cleaning up a polluted lake.



Helping to create laws to save endangered animals. For example, there are laws that say you cannot hunt endangered animals on protected land.



What I am Working On

Right now, I am saving a racerunner, which is a small, striped lizard. Racerunners are endangered, which means that there aren't many left in the world.

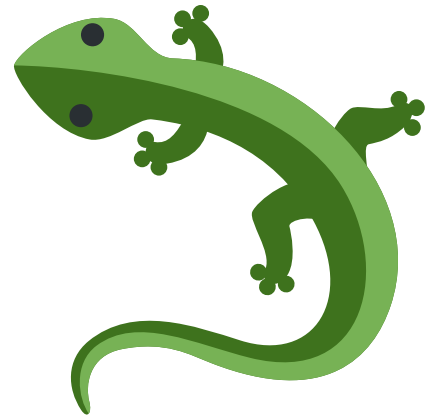


To figure out why there aren't many racerunners left in the world, I need to look for clues. For example, I need to look where racerunners live and look for clues that might tell me why they are dying. Being a conservationist is like being a detective! I need to figure out why there are so few racerunners left!



Looking for Clues

Today, I am visiting three farms where racerunners live. The first thing I am going to do is look at the soil that they live in. I want to test the soil to see if it has normal levels of salt. Salt is found in soil. But, too much salt in the soil is dangerous for racerunners who live there!

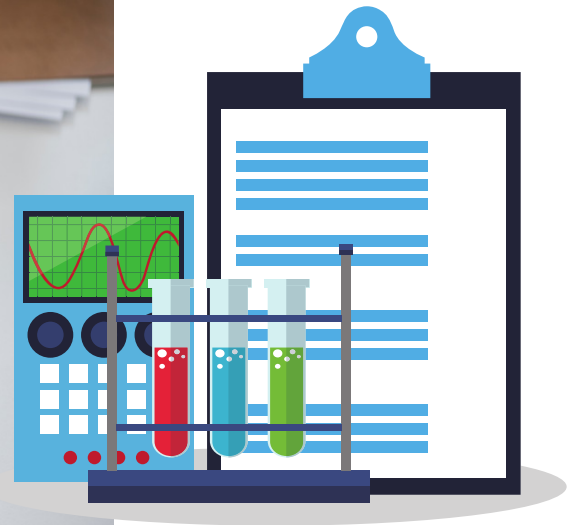


To see how much salt there is in the soil, I take a small sample of the soil from each farm and put it in a container. Then, I take the containers back to my laboratory and do a science experiment! After I do the science experiment, I will be able to see how much salt is in the soil.



Solving the Soil Mystery

After I did the science experiment, I learned that there is way too much salt in the soil on the farms! I know that racerunners cannot survive in salty soil.



There is probably too much salt because of chemicals that farmers put in the soil. Many farmers put chemicals in the soil so bugs do not eat the crops while they grow.



Solving the Soil Mystery

Now that I know why racerunners might be dying, it is time to make a conservation plan to save them! A conservation plan is a set of steps to save an endangered animal. I decide to write down my plan on my iPad.

My conservation plan:

- Ask farmers if they are using chemicals to grow crops.
- Explain to farmers that racerunners are dying because the soil is salty.
- Share ideas with farmers on how to grow food without using chemicals.
- Make a list of my next steps. For example, I need to figure out how many racerunners have died because of salty soil.

Talking to Farmers

My first step is to talk to the farmers. I need to explain that the soil has too much salt in it. I will tell them this salt is killing racerunners. I will ask the farmers about the other chemicals they use on the soil.



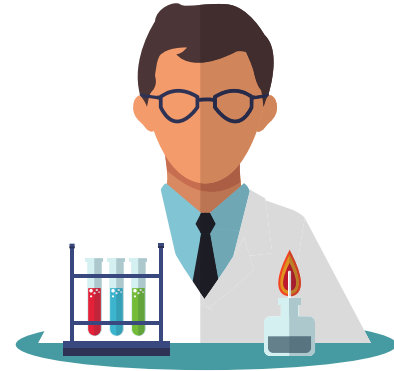
Next, I will provide suggestions to the farmers on how to grow food without chemicals. One idea I have is to cover the ground with hay. Hay can cover the soil and prevent weeds from growing. The hay has the similar affect on the soil as the chemicals. But, hay doesn't make the ground salty like the chemicals do!



Next Steps

I also need to make a list of my next steps!

- Contact other scientists who have worked with farmers to save an endangered species. Ask them for ideas on how to save the race runner!



- Contact the local government about the racerunner being endangered. There are laws that can protect endangered species!



- Find out how many racerunners have died from the salty soil. This will tell me how many are left.

