

## **Fatima Jibrell Biography**

### Ways to use the biographies

Studying the lives and achievements of scientists is part of Sc1 ( National Curriculum)-Ideas and evidence in Science - Scientific Enquiry - in the National Curriculum.

All children need to know that Minority Ethnic peoples have contributed to science in the past and present.

Read and discuss the biography of a person relevant to the area of science the children are studying. Many of the biographies have Race Equality issues in them, discuss these with the children and relate to their own experiences of Race Equality Issues.

Comprehension activities could be developed from these biographies.

Collaborative paired or group tasks and discussions could be

- What evidence did the scientists have to identify a problem?
- What did they do?
- How did it make a difference to people's lives?
- What do you think were the main difficulties that faced the scientist?
  
- To role play the life of the scientist.
- Produce a poster about the scientist and her/his discovery.
- Produce a story-board of their life.
- Write a list of questions they would like to ask the scientist if they could.
- How did this scientist achieve? Ask them to listen and discuss in groups the personal qualities of the person. E.g. persistence.
- Have they heard of this person before? If not, why not? Is there another scientist whom they associate with this discovery?
- Who are scientists? What do scientists do? What tools do they need?

# Fatima Jibrell

## Born 1950

In April 2002 Fatima Jibreel a Somali woman , who studied in the USA, and returned to Somalia in 1990, was awarded

### **The Goldman Environmental Prize.**

This award is given to grassroots environmental heroes.



Ms Jibrell was given the award because she has saved Somalia from the devastation of logging by charcoal exporters.

She fought to preserve the environment out in the villages and rural communities. In particular she has saved the north-east region of Somalia from the destruction of acacia trees. The acacia tree is sacred to the Bedouin tribes. These trees, which are up to 500 years old, were used to make 'black gold' or charcoal. Charcoal is a relatively inexpensive fuel that perfectly suits the users needs. However it is very inefficient to produce and use, and is completely destroying valuable forests.

She persuaded the regional government to make and enforce a ban on exports of charcoal to the Gulf States.

She has also

- taught people to build rock dams to slow the flow of water and soil to the sea.
- Helped them to discover the power of solar energy and other alternative energy sources.
- She has begun educating people, in the rural areas including nomads, new skills and ways to conserve and preserve the environment.

She is the founder and leader of the Horn of Africa Relief and Development Organization. She works across the boundaries of clans in Somalia. She also speaks out against the destruction of the marine environment in Somalia.