

Pisit Charnsnoh 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?

Pisit Charnsnoh

Born 1944

Pisit Charnsnoh was born in 1944 in Thailand. He is a Buddhist. He lives and works in Southern Thailand with Muslims, who are a religious minority in Thailand.



Pisit Charnsnoh has worked with local fisherman to ensure that the natural resources of the mangrove forests and coastal fisheries are protected.

In 1985 he and his wife founded the Yadfon Association, to work with poor coastal villages. In the Thai language 'Yadfon' means 'raindrop', a symbol of renewal.

The mangrove forests of Thailand's coast are a biological diverse ecosystem. It is rich in micro-organisms. The mangroves nurture fish, molluscs, crustaceans, and marine mammals. The living organisms are dependent on each other. Local people have been dependent on these areas for generations.

Many of these ecosystems have been destroyed by logging, burning of the mangrove trees for charcoal, and commercial shrimp farms.

Pisit began work in a few villages this has now spread to 30 communities. In 1986 a group of communities began to restore a 240 acre mangrove forest. As a result there was a huge increase in the amount of 'catch' fishermen caught. There are now at least nine community managed forests and Pisit is still working there.

The most important change that Pisit helped to bring about was to empower people to make decisions about their land and livelihoods. This has meant that the natural resources of the mangrove forests maintain a habitat for the variety of animals and plants, and local people can still fish and make their livelihoods from the area where they have lived for generations.

