

Meet Dr. Guo!

Photo: Stephanie Worley-Friley, Forest Service



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Glossary words are in **bold**.

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This is Dr. Qinfeng Guo.

däk-tər chin-feŋ gwō



Dr. Guo is a scientist who studies animals.



Photo: Babs McDonald

Raccoon

Prairie dog



Photo: Lisa Lynch, National Park Service



Photo: Northern Region, Forest Service

Bear



Photo: Chuck Murphy

Bird

When he was in high school, Dr. Guo knew he wanted to become a scientist.



These high school students want to become scientists, too.

Dr. Guo is **curious**.



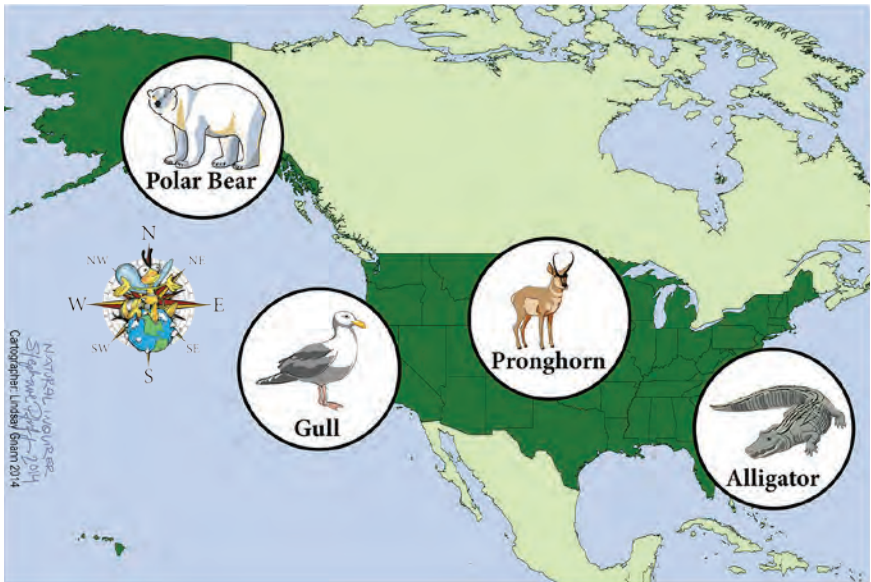
These scientists are curious, too.

Dr. Guo likes to ask questions about our world.



This group of students ask questions about the river.

Dr. Guo asked a question about animals and the **location** of their **habitats**.



Dr. Guo knew that animals can move to a new habitat.



Photo: Babs McDonald

Butterflies can fly.



Photo: Cordell Anderson,
<http://www.wilderness.net>

Fish can swim.



Photo: Jake Frank, National Park Service

Rabbits can hop and run.

Photo: Babs McDonald



Birds can fly.



Photo: Babs McDonald

Moose can walk and run.

Dr. Guo asked, “Can animals move to a new habitat and **survive?**”



Dr. Guo used a **computer** to map the areas where the animals lived **originally**.

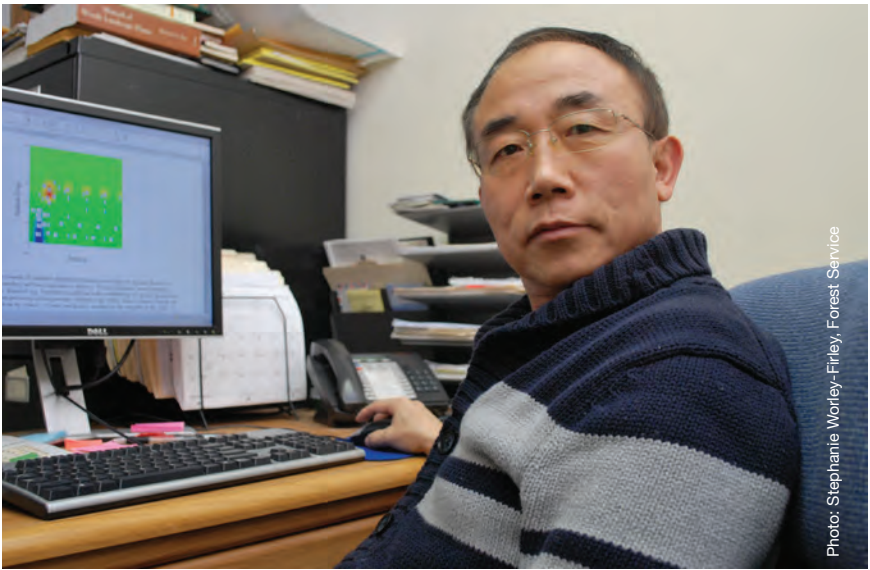


Photo: Stephanie Worley-Firley, Forest Service

He also mapped the areas where animals might move.

Dr. Guo discovered that animals can survive in a new habitat, as long as the **climate** is **similar** to the climate in their original habitat.



People moved some frogs from Puerto Rico to Hawai'i by accident. The climate in Puerto Rico and Hawai'i are similar. Now, the frogs live in Puerto Rico and Hawai'i.

Now that Dr. Guo has answered his question, he is asking new questions!



Scientists like to ask and answer questions. What questions do you have about animals and their habitats?

Critical Thinking Questions:



- What are some animals you have seen around the area where you live? For each animal, describe its habitat.
 - What does the animal eat?
 - Where does the animal sleep?
 - How does the animal's habitat help it survive?
- Dr. Guo likes to ask questions. Why do you think it is important to ask questions?
- Dr. Guo used a computer to help him answer his question. How do you use computers to help you answer questions?

Glossary:

climate (**k**līmət): The most typical weather over many years in a place.



curious (**k**yoŭr-ē-əs): Eager to find out about things.

habitat (**h**a-bə-tat): The natural place where an animal or plant lives or grows.

location (lō-**k**ā-shən): The place or position of something.

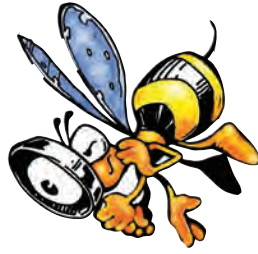
original (ə-**r**ij-ə-nəl): Earliest or first.

similar (**s**i-mə-lər): Almost, but not exactly, the same.

survive (sər-**v**iv): To remain alive.

Try This!

Match the animals to their habitat.



Natural Inquirer Reader Series

Number 3

Grades K–2

Word Count: 417

Genre: Nonfiction

For more information about Dr. Guo's research, read "North of the Border" in the *Natural IQ* Southern United States Climate Change edition, <http://www.naturalinquirer.org>.

Note: For more background information and a lesson plan, visit <http://www.naturalinquirer.org> and click on "Natural Inquirer Reader Series."

Background Information: Dr. Guo's research focused on nonnative plant and animal species. Nonnative plant and animal species might move on their own or are moved by humans to a new area. When nonnative species are successful in their new habitat, they compete with native species for food, nesting, and breeding places. Scientists like Dr. Guo want to discover if nonnative species are limited to certain habitats by things like climate and latitude.

In this reader, students are challenged to think about how animals might move to a new habitat. Students are also challenged to think about how weather conditions affect animals' ability to live in new areas. You can introduce the idea of nonnative animals using the map showing the frog moving to Hawai'i. This frog came to Hawai'i from Puerto Rico in shipping cartons that contained plants. In Puerto Rico, the coqui frog is native. In Hawai'i, the coqui frog is nonnative and is competing with native frogs for habitat.

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Be a Possibility Possum

Scientists make things possible;
They ask and answer questions.
You can make things possible
If you follow these suggestions.

Observe your world and wonder;
Ask how, what, why, and who?
Ask and answer questions
To make things possible for you.

Wonder is a good thing;
It is very plain to see.
When I ask and answer questions,
I make things possible for me.

