

What is a Zoologist?

A Zoologist is an expert in the study of animals and how they interact with the environment. Students may already be familiar with zoos, or 'zoo-' as a prefix in words related to animals. Zoologists do study animals in zoos, but also how they live in their natural habitats.

What does the Zoologist do in Venom CoLab?

The Zoologist in each group learns about the unique effects of venoms from two different species of organism (scorpions, sea anemones, snails, or snakes). The Zoologist observes videos of venomous animals, learns about their behavior and how venom affects predators or prey. The Zoologist's understanding of how the organism uses its venom and the effects of the venom are big clues for which organism the group should choose to study further at the end of Chapter 1. While the Zoologist learns about the effects of venom, the Pharmacologist learns about the specific health problem the group is trying to solve, and the Biochemist and Molecular Biologist learns about how molecules from venom cause those effects by binding to cell receptors to cause changes in cells. The Lab Meeting prompts are intended to help students combine this information and guide them in their decision making process.

XR Component

The Zoologist has 2 opportunities to use XR in Chapter 1.

In the first XR scene, the Zoologist reviews the anatomy of the venomous organisms. The Zoologist was introduced to key vocabulary in previous activities in Chapter 1. Examining the 3D organisms is an opportunity to compare the scale of the two species of organisms and how the form and function of anatomical structures like the scorpions' chelae may differ.

In the second XR scene, the Zoologist collects a sample of venom from one species of venomous organism. The process used differs between the organisms different teams are studying.

